Saturday Special / A2-3

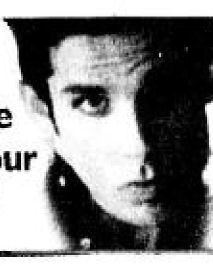
Has Shirley Temple been to the Philippines?

■ Metro / A23

Foul odor gives away shabu lab in Valenzuela

■ Super / E1

How to date a male model and keep your self-esteem intact



■ Science / B4

Lost love can really cause a broken heart

Tanong ng Bayan / A27

Martial law victims, dapat bang bayaran?

CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! Text 2910 now!

RP out of int'l 'dirty money' blacklist; GMA ecstatic

By Doris C. Dumlao and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE PARIS-BASED Financial Action Task Force (FATF) against money laundering has finally stricken off the Philippines from its watchlist of "uncooperative" countries due to the country's effective implementation of an

RP/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

'Flirting 101,' etc. seek to fuel Valentine passions

NEW YORK—Sing a song, roll up your sleeves, hunt in packs, buy a pink umbrella, don't diet, learn from your pets, give your tongue a workout, raise your standards, accept every invitation, consider Botox.

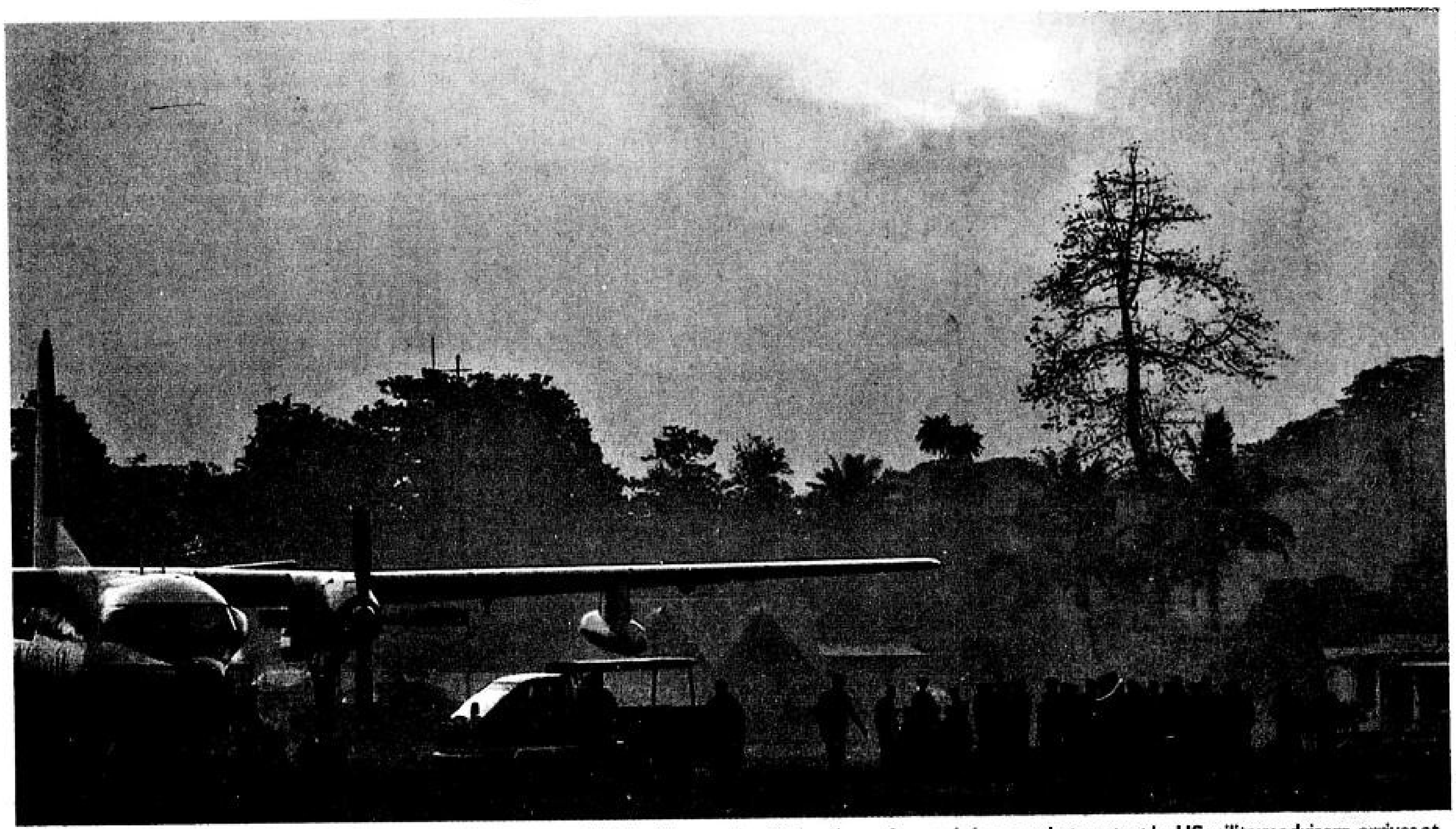
FLIRTING/ A4

DITO, TEXT MO LANG, AYOS NA!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Saturday, February 12, 2005 ★★ 94 pages / 13 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 66 P18
website: www.inq7.net

GMA: No order for truce

US-trained unit goes into battle vs Moro insurgents in Sulu



THE ELITE Light Reaction Company of the Army Special Forces, which had been trained in jungle warfare and close combat contact by US military advisers, arrives at the Jolo airport at dawn on Friday. The government has ordered the deployment of more troops to subdue the rebellion staged by followers of jailed leader Misuari. AFP

By PDI Mindanao Bureau and Juliet Labog-Javellana

JOLO, Sulu—US-trained troops equipped with night-vision goggles and bullet-proof body armor joined the fray against Moro insurgents on Jolo yesterday as Malacañang held off any ceasefire order despite Muslim calls for an end to the fighting.

Government losses in the conflict have risen to 27 dead and the military said it expected more fighting ahead as its forces closed in on the insurgents' hideouts.

"As of now there is no such order for a ceasefire," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a press conference in Malacañang.

Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Ariston de los Reyes said the AFP would pursue the operations against members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) unless a ceasefire was ordered by higher authorities.

The military deployed additional troops to Jolo, including 40 soldiers who underwent special training with US forces in jungle warfare and close quarter combat.

Members of the US-trained group, numbering about a company, are equipped with more powerful assault rifles and better radios than ordinary soldiers, as well as bullet-proof body plates from chest down to their legs.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said American forces were not involved in the hunt for the MNLF breakaway group.

GMA/ A22

He led a soldier's life, died a soldier's death

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRAISE was profuse for this soldier who went fresh from the cauldron straight into the fire.

When Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1986, he asked to be assigned to his native Mindanao. He died with his boots on last Wednesday—in a gun battle with followers of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari in Barangay Bitan-ag, Jolo, Sulu.

Villanueva was the highest ranking officer killed in the fighting in Sulu, said to be the most intense in recent years. He was 42.

"Dennis was assigned all his life in the field, and he died a soldier's death," said former Army Capt. Rene Jarque, one of his classmates at the PMA.

The Armed Forces public information chief, Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, called him "a fine commander who led the way for his men."

"Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva

HE LED/ A22

Nur key to stopping rebellion, Muslims say

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Michael Lim Ubac and PDI Mindanao Bureau

VARIOUS Muslim groups urged the government yesterday to tap the services of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari in ending the fighting on Jolo, warning the alternative might be a wider war.

Unless the government takes steps to halt the violence, the ongoing clashes in Sulu might spill ever to other places, including Metro Manila, they said.

Former Sen. Santanina Rasul said the only person that could stop the Moro group involved in the Jolo fighting was Misuari.

Bangsa Moro Party chair Firdausi Abbas, speaking to the INQUIRER, said the political opposition might also be tempted to take advantage of the conflict and use it to "undermine" the Arroyo government.

"This is not a threat but an advice to the President. We urge her to take decisive action," Abbas added.

In a statement, Abbas' Bangsa Moro party asked the administra-

NUR/ A22

Camilla won't be queen but princess consort

LONDON—Camilla Parker Bowles, the longtime mistress of British heir to the throne Prince Charles, would not be called queen once Charles becomes king but would be known as the Princess Consort. After her marriage, she will also carry the title of Duchess of Cornwall, according to Clarence House, Charles' residence in London.

Prince Charles may have won public support for his engagement to lover Camilla but he faces a struggle to convince the nation he should one day be king, a poll showed on Friday.

Two-thirds of Britons accept Charles' plans to marry Camilla, his mistress during his turbulent marriage to the late Princess Diana, the YouGov survey in the Daily Telegraph newspaper found.

CAMILLA/ A4

Palace itemizes how Marcos loot was spent

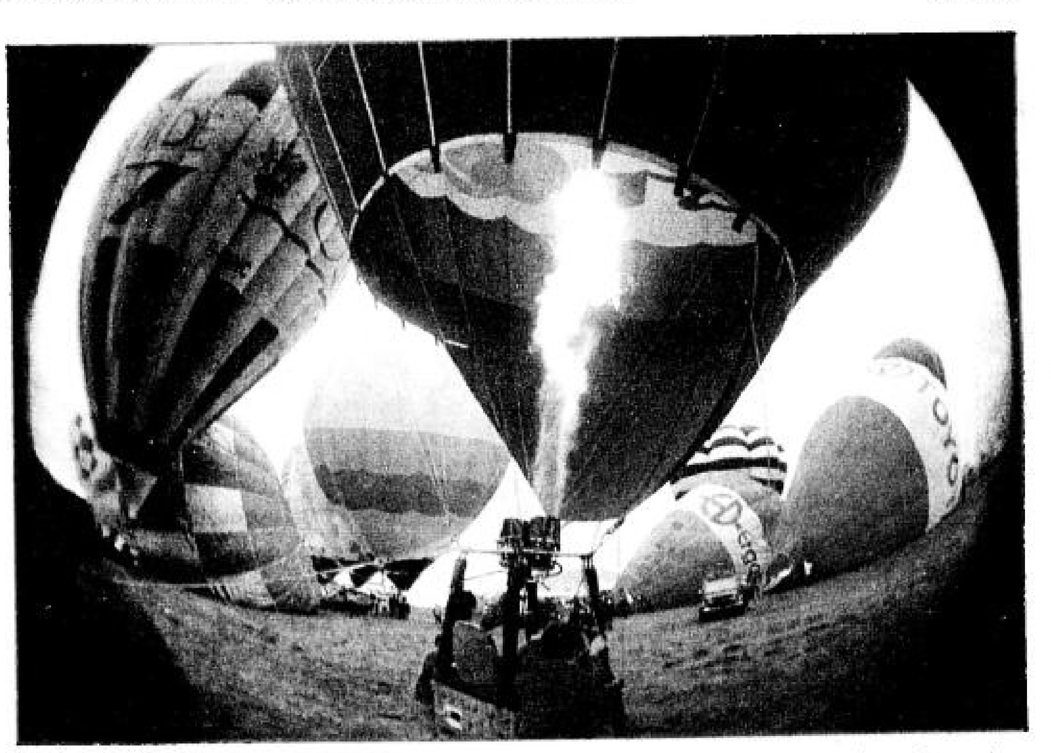
By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday defended its disposition of $683 million in recovered Marcos assets amid accusations by militant groups and certain legislators that President Macapagal-Arroyo had misused the money.

The funds, which are forfeited Swiss bank deposits of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, were transferred to the National Treasury last year after the Supreme Court ruled that the money was ill-gotten.

Acting Budget Secretary Mario Relampagos, who was presented at a Palace press conference yesterday, said that of the P35 billion—the peso equivalent of the $683 million plus interest—transferred from a bank escrow account to the National Treasury, P17.3

PALACE/ A4



UP, UP AND AWAY: The Department of Tourism is sponsoring starting yesterday a three-day air sporting extravaganza at Clark Air Base in Angeles, Pampanga. A participant pumps the burner of his balloon.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

COURTESY OF GIRL SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

JOSEFA LL. ESCODA: Incarcerated in Fort Santiago

COURTESY OF GIRL SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

ANTONIO ESCODA SR: Intelligence operative for guerrillas and MacArthur

BY SWORD AND FIRE

GEN. VICENTE LIM: Top leader of Filipino resistance to Japanese

COURTESY OF TERESA COLAYCO

MANUEL COLAYCO: Hero of UST was mortally wounded

HOLOCAUST IN MANILA

Escodas, Vicente Lim beheaded

(Editor's Note: One hundred thousand civilians, mostly Filipinos, perished in the 28-day Battle for Manila in February 1945. The Memorare-Manila 1945 Foundation founded by the survivors and descendants of the victims aims to keep the flame of remembrance burning brightly to illumine the meaning of their dying.

Today, Memorare and the Friends of Intramuros will honor the martyrs with a Mass, wreath-laying and the endless retelling of their heroism.)

By Alice Colet Villadolid
Contributor

(Second of a series)

IN THE CHAOS of the last year of World War II, Ma. Teresa Escoda, then 16, and her brother Antonio Escoda Jr., 14, scoured the neighborhoods of the Old Bilibid Prison, Far Eastern University and the Chinese Cemetery for the remains of their parents—Josefa Llanes Escoda and Antonio Escoda Sr.

The teenaged children had been told by relatives of other prisoners that Japanese executioners had beheaded Antonio either at the Bilibid or the Chinese Cemetery, and had dealt the same grisly execution later to Josefa, probably at the FEU campus. The children never found their parents' remains.

A top leader of the Filipino resistance to Japanese occupation, Gen. Vicente Lim was said to have been beheaded with Antonio Escoda, himself a colonel

ESCODAS/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

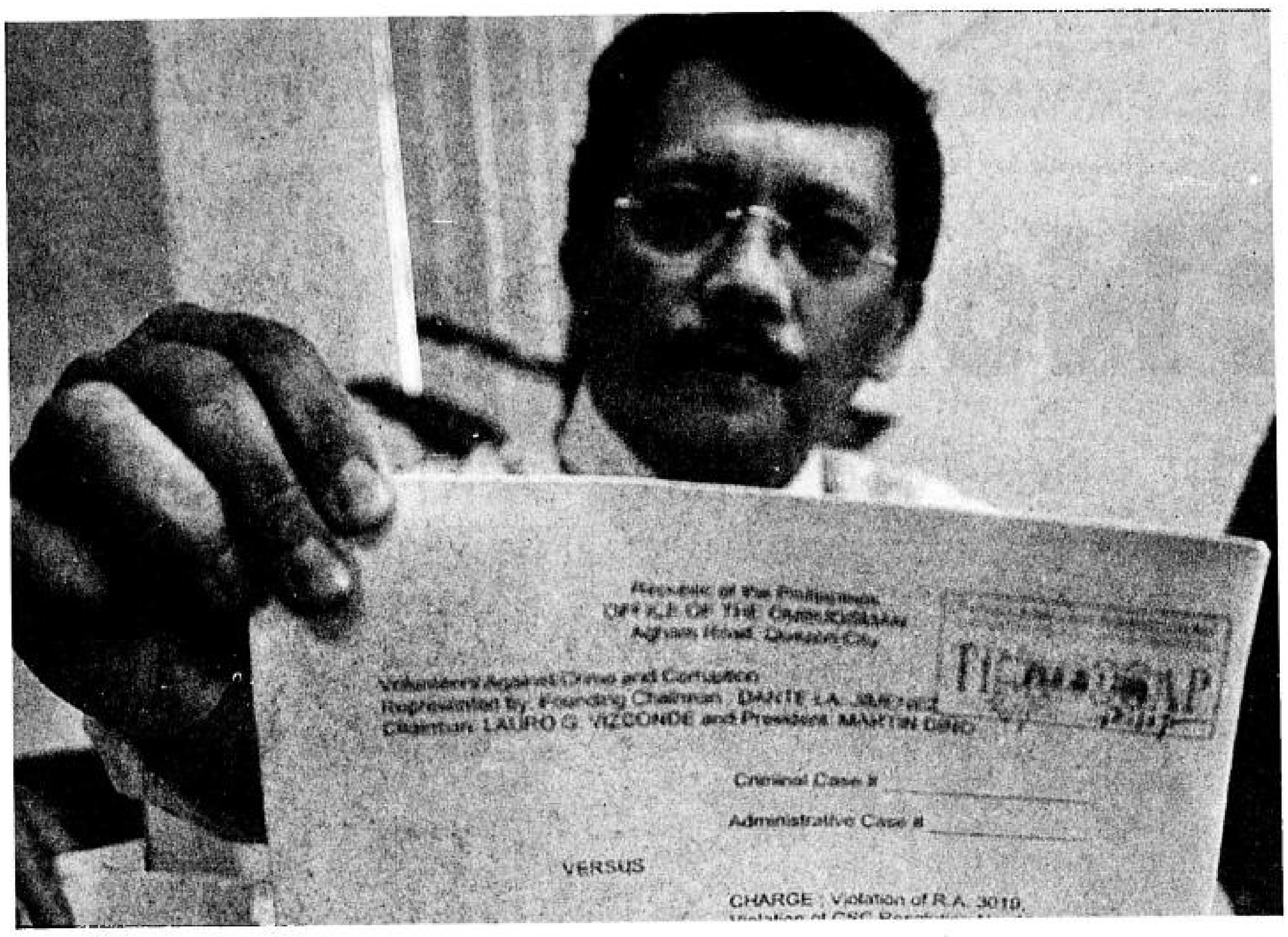
FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers..

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/12/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Graft raps filed vs Soriquez, MWSS execs

By Armand Nocum
and Juliet Labog-Javellana



CHARGED. VACC chair Dante Jimenez shows to photographers the charge sheet against Soriquez.

MITCH MAURICIO

HIS TROUBLES just won't go away.

After officials and employees of the Department of Public Works and Highways demanded his ouster, this time another group has filed graft charges against former Public Works Secretary Florante Soriquez and top officials of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

The Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC), which had been monitoring biddings in government offices, accused Soriquez and 20 MWSS officials of alleged irregularities in the bidding of a water project which defrauded the government of about P53 million.

VACC chair Dante Jimenez, who led the filing of the case at the Office of the Ombudsman, also asked the President to severe ties with Soriquez, who claims to be close to the President and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

"The President should rise above personal ties and suspend Soriquez to stop him from tampering or dissipating key documents relating to the many corruption cases he stands accused of," Jimenez told reporters.

But no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday conceded that embattled former public works secretary cannot be fired right away.

"Soriquez is a career official, holding a plantilla position so he can only be taken out after due process. He's not a political appointee," Ms Arroyo said in a press conference.

Asked if Soriquez would stay in the department despite the filing of graft charges against him, Ms Arroyo said Soriquez cannot be fired or suspended unless on the say-so of the Ombudsman.

"The body that has the authority to suspend him will be the Ombudsman after due investigation because he's a career official," Ms Arroyo said.

The President has replaced Soriquez with National Security Adviser Hermogenes Ebdane, but she allowed Soriquez to return to his previous post as DPWH undersecretary.

"I appeal on the President to order the relief of Soriquez as DPWH undersecretary because his continued stay in office is detrimental to the public interest," Jimenez said.

Soriquez has been accused of taking kickbacks in government infrastructure projects. But this was dismissed by Soriquez as "black propaganda" spread by DPWH officials affected by the reforms he implemented at the department.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson had earlier identified Soriquez as one of the campaign contributors of the President when she ran for vice president.

In his complaint, Jimenez accused Soriquez and about 20 officials of the MWSS of allegedly conniving to change the bidding requirements of a P200-million water project to accommodate a favored bidder in 2003.

The DPWH secretary is automatically given the post of chair of the board of trustees of the MWSS.

Also charged were MWSS Administrator Orlando Honrade and MWSS board members Amaury Gutierrez, Andoni Dumlao, Soledad Cruz and bidding committee members Macra Cruz, Leonor Cleofas, Enrico Umerez, Romeo Posadas and Loreto Aquino.

The project known as the "Construction of Sewage Treatment Plant and Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant" was supposed to have been awarded to China National Water Resources (CNWR), said Jimenez, whose group sat as "observer" in the bidding.

The VACC started observing all DPWH biddings since the time of Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

Jimenez said CNWR, which offered a bid of P146,809,6779, clearly won the contract as the lowest bidder.

"But when Soriquez took over, the project was eventually awarded to the J.V. Angeles Construction Corp. and J.E. Manalo and Co. Inc, which teamed up for the project," he said.

He said that the Angeles-Manalo joint venture offered the second highest bid of P198,596,358, which is 35 percent or P52,815,139 higher than that offered by CNWR.

In his complaint, he said the MWSS officials did this by allegedly downgrading stringent pre-qualification requirements for a firm to win the project. A bidder must have an "average annual turnover" of $14 million, has had three similar contracts undertaken; and has done at least P25 million worth of such contract.

With the entry of Soriquez, he said these requirements were reduced to $9 million average annual turnover, one similar contract undertaken; while the P25 million "was reduced to zero or no amount."

Thus, he said, the MWSS officials "knowingly and maliciously altered and changed qualification for bidders, the approved agency estimate and unduly ignored and disregarded the disqualifications of (the Angeles-Manalo joint venture) in order to allegedly favor the latter."

"By its actuations, (MWSS officials) accorded undue advantage to (the winning bidder), which is violative of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act," he said.

Meanwhile, Ebdane said that the demoralization in the department spawned by allegations of corruption against Soriquez would soon be ironed out.

"In my talk with the rank and file and Secretary Soriquez himself, I would like to think we can really solve the problem soonest and let the concerned agencies handle the job (of investigating Soriquez)," Ebdane said.

Ebdane said there were "mechanisms" to address concerns that Soriquez could influence the investigation while he is still in the department.

"I have started reaching out to the rank and file and we have already discussed some problems including that of Secretary Soriquez," Ebdane said.

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DISHONESTY, MISCONDUCT

GMA 'classmate' in Customs sacked

By Armand Nocum
and Peter La. Julian
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE CUSTOMS official earlier described by her colleagues as claiming to be an ex-classmate of President Macapagal-Arroyo has been dismissed for "dishonesty and grave misconduct" in public office.

In a resolution of the criminal and administrative complaint filed against Alberta D.J. Iglesias, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said the acting district customs collector in San Fernando, La Union, with a monthly salary of about P25,000 had failed to explain the "meteoric rise of her assets."

The complaint against Iglesias was filed in January 2004 by the Department of Finance's Revenue Integrity Protection Service, which found that she had gross assets of P92 million and a net worth of P65 million.

She joined the Bureau of Customs in 1989 with a declared net worth of P245,000 in her statement of assets and liabilities (SAL).

With her dismissal, Iglesias lost her civil service eligibility and forfeited her leave credits and retirement benefits. She was also barred from reemployment in the government.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Iglesias through her mobile phone and office phone at the BOC in Poro Point.

But her chief of staff, Ramon Imbisan, said she would file a motion for reconsideration.

Iglesias falsified her entries in her SAL for 1989-2002, according to Ombudsman Marcelo's resolution.

It noted a sudden increase in her net worth, from P245,000 in her first year in the government to P1,685,000 in her second year. It said this was an "unjustified" increase, considering that she had no employment other than her post at the BOC.

The resolution also noted a "meteoric rise" in her assets from her declared cash of P250,000 in 1991 to P1.77 million in 1992, "which was not sufficiently explained by her income from the government service."

During the period 1989-2002, Iglesias was found to have acquired pieces of property in Baguio, Manila, Quezon City, Pampanga, Parañaque, Novaliches and Sta. Barbara in Pangasinan.

Marcelo said some of these assets were unlawfully acquired. He cited one in Baguio and another in Pangasinan, the true value of which, according to Iglesias' admission, she misdeclared "in order to avoid paying higher taxes."

Iglesias was also found to have "lied" in her personal data sheet (PDS).

The resolution said she denied having been criminally charged before the courts, but that government investigators later found that two cases of estafa through falsification of public documents were pending against her at courts in Manila and Makati.

Marcelo recommended the filing of forfeiture charges against Iglesias for her "unexplained wealth" and of falsification and perjury charges for her alleged lies in her PDS.

He said that although Iglesias tried to justify her wealth by saying that she had inherited it from her parents and that she had obtained bank loans, she failed to explain where she got the money to pay for the loans, which reached P26 million and P29 million in 1998 and 1999, respectively.

"[Her] misconduct has elements of corruption and clear intent to violate the law," he added.

Abu Sayyaf chief's aide falls

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The alleged right-hand man of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, who participated in the 2000 kidnapping of an American national, has fallen into the hands of the government.

Omar Usman Jimlani alias Abu Usman and Ustadz Asman was presented to reporters yesterday by Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes.

Reyes said Jimlani was arrested by elements of the Airforce Intelligence unit and the police Provincial Mobile Group during an operation in Sitio Lumantik in Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay here on Feb. 1.

"He is the right-hand man of Janjalani and was involved in the June 2, 2001 raid on Don Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan (Basilan) and the kidnapping of American Jeffrey Schilling in Indanan, Sulu and the attack on Ipil on April 4, 1996," Reyes said.

Reyes said Jimlani's arrest was covered by a warrant issued by Judge Danilo Bucoy of Basilan.

Relatives of Jimlani said he was a fall guy but Ricardo Cabaron, Western Mindanao state prosecutor, said the government is certain about his identity.

Cabaron said a former Abu Sayyaf bandit, who turned state witness, confirmed that Jimlani worked with the bandit group.

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Palace itemizes how Marcos loot was spent

From page A1

billion had already been "programmed" for Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program purposes, like land distribution and acquisition and CARP support services.

Balance of P9.7B

He said P8 billion had been ordered set aside by the President in the event that Congress approves a proposed bill to compensate the Marcos human rights victims, leaving a balance of P9.7 billion, which would also go to CARP.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo earlier revealed that incoming Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima had reported to him that the amount had been reduced to $467.67 million (about $25 billion) as of end-2004.

At the same press briefing, the President held out the hope that the rights abuse victims who last week lost a court bid for a settlement of their $2 billion US court judgment from the $683 million forfeited Marcos deposits, could still get their compensation by December in the form of a law to be passed by Congress.

Ms Arroyo said she was hopeful that Congress would pass the proposed bill to indemnify the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos regime in time for Human Rights Day on Dec. 8.

"I was hoping I could have signed it [the bill] last Dec. 8, I'm still hoping I can sign it this Dec. 8," she said.

"It's a very contentious measure, I hope it will be passed," she said.

Congress to decide

The President explained why she had ordered that P8 billion be set aside from the forfeited Marcos funds. Although it will be Congress that will decide the final amount of compensation, she said the government would have to raise whatever amount Congress would set.

"We don't know what the amount will finally be. But if [Congress] says that it will be P11 billion, the amount set aside will probably have earned enough interest to approximate the P11 billion. That's the idea," Ms Arroyo said.

The President also corrected administration Senator Arroyo's claim that the compensation for the rights victims in the amount of P11 billion had been provided for in the national budget.

"What budget?" the President asked, while Relampagos explained that there was no such provision in the budget.

"It's not in the budget. The President, knowing that there is this bill filed in Congress, was prudent enough to already set aside money just in case the bill will pass. But the balance [of P9.7 billion] will continue to be used as provided in the agrarian reform law," Relampagos said.

He said the P8 billion remained in the National Treasury, "untouched."

Interest earnings

He explained that if Congress were to legislate more than the P8 billion for the rights victims, then the government would get the additional amount from the interest earnings and the balance of P9.7 billion which has not yet been programmed.

But he said the interest from the P8 billion may be enough to cover the final compensation figure.

As for where the money—consisting of cash, bonds and stocks—has been invested, Relampagos said it was the Treasury, not the DBM, that makes those decisions.

"I'm sure the Treasury as part of its cash function management has put that [money] in high-earning investments," Relampagos said.

He said the administration had not committed any act that would be considered illegal in spending the forfeited Marcos funds.

"We're following the provisions of the law—land acquisition, land distribution, support services for these programs—so we will not spend it beyond what is stated in the law," Relampagos said.

Balance victims needs

At the House, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the House appropriations committee, came to the defense of the President, saying she did not break any law in spending the Marcos funds.

"To her credit, President Arroyo balanced the need to help farmers and the need to compensate victims," Andaya said.

"Before we unjustly pillory the President for imagined offenses, let us not lose sight of the fact that she is the only Malacañang tenant so far who has given her full backing to the compensation bill," he said.

The President has certified as urgent a bill currently pending at the House seeking to allocate at least P10 billion in indemnification for the rights abuse victims.

Andaya asked for patience from the victims, saying that "in the absence of a law prescribing the manner by which to indemnify victims of martial law abuses, the law in operation is the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law."

"It is in obedience to the latter that the releases [from the Marcos funds] were made," Andaya said in a statement.

Under the CARL, all proceeds from the recovery of Marcos assets are to be used to fund the agrarian reform program.

Andaya explained that the rights abuse victims cannot be compensated because Congress has yet to pass a law providing for the terms of indemnification.

Social justice

But Congress' failure to pass a compensation bill should not "handcuff the President from using resources at hand to meet the needs of social justice," he said.

"The absence of such a law does not constitute an injunction against the President for as long as the expenditures made are pursuant to [the agrarian reform law]," he said.

"Others would have been tempted to splurge on projects using funds which under the law can be utilized for a particular concern. This lady did not," he added.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday railed at the President, accusing her of allegedly misusing the recovered Marcos loot for "dubious" agrarian reform projects.

He said it was an "impeachable offense" to be laid at the door of the President. *With a report from Cynthia Balana*

'Flirting 101,' etc. seek . . .

From page A1

This is just some of the relationship advice on offer before Valentine's Day, a time when US publishers bring out a slew of self-help books designed to fuel passions, rekindle romance and comfort the amorously challenged.

Among February's titles are "Flirting 101," "Mr. Right, Right Now! Man Catching Made Easy," "Love Signals: A Practical Field Guide to the Body Language of Courtship," and "Be Honest—You're Not That Into Him Either," responding to last year's "He's Just Not That Into You" which sold over 500,000 copies.

Stacy Kravetz, author of "The Dating Race: An undercover report from the front lines of modern-day romance," says the matchmaking business in the United States is worth more than $1 billion a year. The market for advice is clearly booming too.

"Flirting 101" urges readers to develop a "personal brand" and practice flirting for business. It offers a dictionary of text-message flirting including such terms as "HOT4U" and "2 6Y" and issues warnings on personal hygiene and scent.

"A short word on sweat, not a guaranteed technique," write the authors Michelle Lia Lewis and Andrew Bryant.

"Male sweat can be a turn-on to some women but only if it is fresh ... If you miss your window of opportunity [20 minutes] it will definitely repel." To prepare yourself psychologically the book encourages the nervous to sing a song such as "I'm Too Sexy" by Right Said Fred before setting out to face the world.

Learning from fish

"Love Signals," whose author David Givens boasts a PhD in anthropology, compares human courtship to animal behavior, from peacocks to lizards and prairie chickens.

The infallible "pass-by" maneuver, Givens says, resembles the mating ritual of the stickleback fish, called the zig-zag dance. The favorite ruse of dropping an item such as a glove is a submissive sign of helplessness that mirrors what is observed in bonobo chimpanzees.

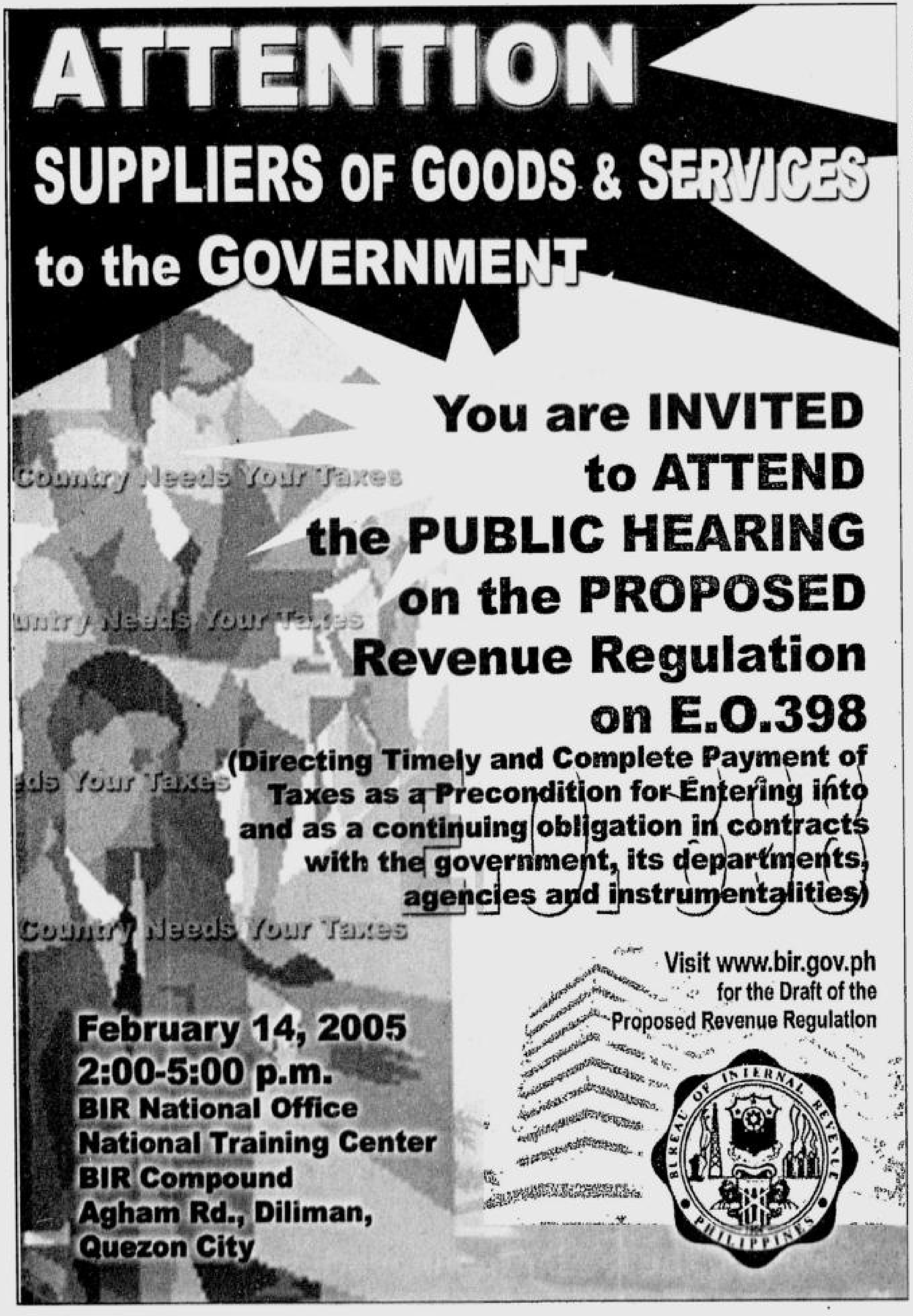
Women are attracted by hands and wrists so roll up those sleeves, he urges. Everybody likes to see "harmlessness signals" such as shrugged shoulders and mimicking gestures. And big hair is a big no-no. "Big hair is simply too big, and makes a head loom too close for comfort," Givens writes.

"Mr. Right, Right Now!" acknowledges on the first page that there are too many self-help books, mainly because they don't work and they make readers feel worse than they did before, leading them to seek out another self-help book.

Man-catching program

"I understand your problems with the term Man Catcher," writes author E. Jean Carroll. "It implies a rash wanton, a 'snagger,' or worse, a 'trapper.' But I use the term in the noblest sense of a nimble, witty woman who can filch a man's heart when he's not even looking."

The book offers a six-week man-catching program: Don't take men seriously, do not diet and pick a pink umbrella on a rainy day. For the impatient there's a shortened six-day program. For the very impatient, six hours. Reuters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the PUBLIC HEARING
on the PROPOSED
Revenue Regulation
on E.O.398
(Directing Timely and Complete Payment of Taxes as a Precondition for Entering into and as a continuing obligation in contracts with the government, its departments, agencies and instrumentalities)

Visit www.bir.gov.ph
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Proposed Revenue Regulation

February 14, 2005
2:00-5:00 p.m.
BIR National Office
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Quezon City

Camilla won't be queen ...

From page A1

But a narrow majority wants the monarchy to skip a generation, with Queen Elizabeth II handing the crown to her grandson Prince William, 22, on her death or abdication.

"He cannot remarry and ascend the throne," Diana's former butler Paul Burrell wrote in the Daily Mirror. "Charles should renounce his birthright and allow Prince William to be heir apparent."

Royal watchers say Charles, 56, would never consider such a move, which would overturn the centuries-old convention of the monarch's eldest son assuming the throne.

Aware of public misgivings over his lover, Charles ruled out Camilla becoming queen once he becomes king.

The Telegraph's YouGov survey was conducted within hours of Thursday's announcement that Charles is to marry mother of two, Camilla, 57, on April 8.

It found 41 percent would prefer William to be the next monarch, with 37 percent favoring Charles. A similar poll in November 2002 put Charles on 48 percent and William on 28.

Early television straw polls, with no element of random selection, found most people were against the marriage.

Love conquers all

Questions of the royal succession were overshadowed by newspaper debate over Camilla's new title, her wedding dress and the engagement ring.

"Love has conquered all," the top-selling Sun tabloid said. "Charles is entitled to happiness in his life with a woman he has loved for so long."

Papers carried front-page pictures of the diamond and platinum ring, which a beaming Camilla showed off with Charles at Windsor Castle, where they are to marry in April.

"I am just coming down to earth," said Camilla, who confirmed that Charles had followed tradition by going down on one knee to propose.

Wearing a pink gown and three strings of pearls, she posed for pictures in the splendor of the castle's gilt-lined Grand Reception Room. Charles, wearing a black bow tie and dinner jacket with red collar and cuffs, said: "I am very happy."

Charles was divorced in 1996 from Diana, who once said "there were three of us in this marriage" after her husband continued an affair with Camilla, whom he first met in 1970.

Wedding plans

Clarence House said the civil wedding would take place on April 8 at Windsor Castle, the royal family's weekend retreat west of London and a resting place of 10 monarchs, including the remains of King Henry VIII.

A subsequent service of prayer and dedication at the castle's St. George's Chapel, a 15th-century Gothic chapel, will be led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual head of the Church of England.

Queen's warm wishes

In a statement, Queen Elizabeth said: "The Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip) and I are very happy that the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Parker Bowles are to marry. We have given them our warmest good wishes for their future together."

Prince William, 22, and Prince Harry, 20—Charles' sons by his marriage to Diana, who died in a car crash in Paris in August 1997—said they were "delighted."

"We are both very happy for our father and Camilla and we wish them all the luck in the future," they said in a statement.

Once wedded, the couple—both countryside enthusiasts—will honeymoon at Birkhall, a grand hunting lodge in the grounds of Balmoral Castle, the royal family's favorite summer vacation spot in the Scottish Highlands.

Highly unorthodox

The fact the wedding ceremony itself will be a civil affair is a nod to the Church of England, which does not recognize marriage between divorcees. Both the prince, who as king will be the supreme governor of the Church of England, and Camilla are divorced.

Nonetheless, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams said he supported the union, which was "consistent with Church of England guidelines concerning remarriage."

Although marrying a long-term mistress is highly unorthodox for a British prince, there are no constitutional barriers.

The only laws governing royal weddings, both from the 18th century, say only that they must have the monarch's consent and that the proposed spouse is not Roman Catholic, neither of which are issues in this case.

Far more troublesome for the couple will be winning over the British public.

Aloof figure

While she is reportedly charming and lively in person, Camilla is a much more aloof figure than Diana was, with little apparent interest in her public image and a fashion sense largely shaped by her outdoor country life.

"Obviously people's feelings about Camilla are very much entangled [with their feelings about] Diana," said royal biographer Robert Lacey.

"It is pretty clear that people are not enormously enamored by Camilla. People in the future will say that when you compare her style with Diana's, it is very different."

Charles first met Camilla in 1970, but their relationship ended when he entered the navy and she married another suitor, army officer Andrew Parker Bowles.

Although this first marriage lasted until 1995, Camilla continued to see the prince during his stormy marriage to Diana, a long love affair cemented by a mutual love of country pursuits such as polo and fox hunting.

Mixed feelings

On the streets of London, many people accepted the prospect of the union with mixed feelings.

"It is about time they got married as he was obviously never going to give her up," said Arthur Mills, 69, who added: "She is no comparison to Diana."

"I am not impressed. I don't mind the two of them getting married but there is no way they should become king and queen," said 45-year-old Dee Davis.

"They love each other so they should be allowed to get married," countered Robert Horton, 28, from South Africa.

Britain's papers argued with readers still attached to Diana's legacy that Camilla and Charles deserved to be happy after decades in love.

"Admittedly the prince of Wales behaved badly to Diana," said The Daily Mirror. "But in that he is no different from thousands upon thousands of men. It doesn't make it right or acceptable, but it is not a reason for him to spend his life in misery."

"Our love for Diana is still strong and will continue. But it is time to move on," it added. "Charles has the right to happiness." *Reuters, AFP*

Correction

IN THE STORY "Senate OKs 'skin and bones' budget," on Page A2 of the Feb. 11, 2004 issue, it was incorrectly stated that the P907.350-billion budget passed by the Senate was "P240 billion short" of the version passed by the House. The correct figure is P240 million.

In the same story, it was also incorrectly stated that the P120 million pork barrel allocation for senators was "down by P80 billion." The phrase should have read "down by P80 million."

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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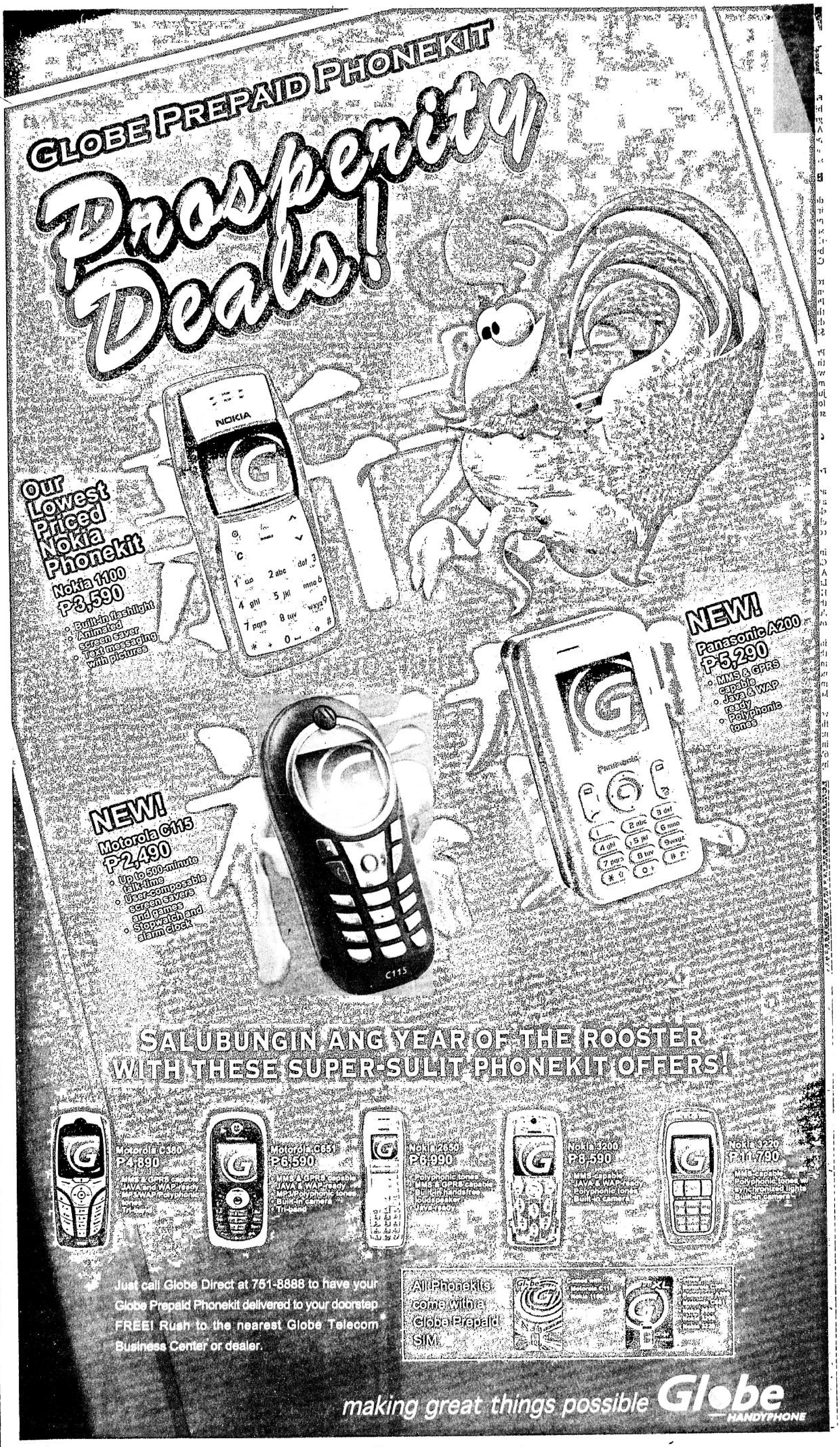

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FORMER President Joseph Estrada returns to Tanay, Rizal, after being hospitalized for pneumonia.
MITCH MAURICIO

Erap out of hospital, back in Tanay

By Armand N. Nocum

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada was discharged yesterday from the Cardinal Santos Medical Center after doctors declared that his medical condition had improved four days after he was rushed to the hospital for "slight pneumonia."

The 67-year-old former leader was immediately returned by chopper to his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, at 2:45 p.m., according to Sandiganbayan chief sheriff Ed Urieta.

He brushed aside speculations that Estrada was brought to his mother's house in San Juan before returning to Tanay.

"That will not happen. We cannot allow that," Urieta said.

Interviewed by Sandiganbayan reporters, Estrada's doctor Lorenzo Hocson said the former president's condition had improved since he was taken to the hospital on Tuesday complaining of fever and body pain.

"He's still under medication, but he's OK now. He is no longer on dextrose but he has to take tablets for maintenance. We checked his blood pressure and he is stable. His lungs are clear," Hocson said.

He added that Estrada would need an X-ray and blood tests in a week's time. He had earlier advised Estrada to stay in the hospital for a longer time.

The incident gave Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio the chance to revive an old proposal for Estrada to be returned to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

"We have long wanted that he stay at the (VMMC) in Quezon City because there are no medical facilities in Tanay. It's the defense lawyers who want him in the mountains," Villa-Ignacio said.

2 SC justices asked to stay off Piatco case

By Philip C. Tubeza and Nikko Dizon

CARPIO

CORONA

THE CONSORTIUM that built the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 yesterday asked two Supreme Court justices to inhibit themselves from the case involving the terminal's expropriation.

In a six-page motion, the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) asked Associate Justices Antonio Carpio and Renato Corona to inhibit themselves from participating in the deliberations over the government's appeal to overturn a Pasay City court decision ordering it to initially pay Piatco $62.34 million for the expropriated terminal.

"The filing of the instant motion seeks to remove any doubt on the ability of the honorable justices to discharge their functions with the 'cold neutrality of an impartial judge,'" Piatco said.

"The Supreme Court has acknowledged the rule that a judge, like Caesar's wife, must be above suspicion. He must hold himself above reproach and suspicion," it added.

Piatco noted that Carpio was a founding partner of the law firm Villaraza and Angangco, the counsel of Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. (AEDC), which lost to Piatco in the bidding for Naia 3. AEDC is reportedly still interested in the project.

"If indeed, AEDC is still interested in the Naia Terminal 3 and will bid for the terminal, the resolution of this case will have an impact on any such bid," Piatco said.

The consortium said that if the Pasay City court's order is reversed, AEDC and other bidders could benefit since government might allow them to raise funds to bid and pay for the terminal.

Conflict of interest

Piatco also said that the graft charges filed by the Office of the Ombudsman against the consortium's officials were baseless, claiming that these were meant to influence pending cases that the government has filed before two international courts over the Naia Terminal 3 project.

Piatco's legal counsel and spokesperson Liwayway Vinzons-Chato questioned the propriety of Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo in filing the case before the Sandiganbayan, noting a "conflict of interest" in his being a former lawyer of the AEDC.

In a phone interview, Chato also said that when Marcelo was the Solicitor General, his office had recommended the dismissal of a similar case filed by a group of private individuals in Pampanga against Piatco and the government officials named by the Ombudsman in the case filed last Thursday before the Sandiganbayan.

Then Ombudsman Aniano Desierto dismissed the case, she said.

"This is pure and simple harassment. This was the same case. What could have changed in the past years? What made him (Marcelo) change his mind?" Chato told the INQUIRER.

Palace told to 'bite the bullet' on bare-bones budget

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORCED to operate on a "bare-bones" budget this year, the Arroyo administration should "bite the bullet" and start living within its means, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said yesterday.

Pangilinan said Malacañang should summon the political will to raise enough revenues to finance budgetary allocations, and put an end to the practice of resorting to borrowing.

Noting that the economy has been sustained for years primarily by foreign debt, Pangilinan has filed a Senate resolution proposing the creation of a congressional debt commission.

A similar resolution was passed by the House last year.

"It is only when reckless borrowings stop can we hope to put in place a more socially responsive budget," Pangilinan said.

He blamed the growing national debt, which now stands at P3.8 trillion, on the "knee-jerk response to our fiscal situation," such as by borrowing.

The proposed debt commission would manage the payment of the national debt and disallow resorting to borrowings unless extremely necessary, he said.

When the borrowings are regulated, the government would be forced to raise more revenues internally and to spend resources more efficiently, he said.

At the Senate, Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday wanted to know if the P240 million slashed from the P907.3-billion national budget approved by the Senate the other day came from the share of the pork barrel funds that he and Senate President Franklin Drilon were supposed to have given up.

Lacson sought the clarification after hearing Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the Senate finance committee, tell a television interviewer about the P240-million cut.

The Villar committee passed a version of the budget that was P240 million less than the one approved by the House earlier. The two versions are to be reconciled by the bicameral conference committee next week.

Lacson said in a phone interview that he has yet to ask Congress to deduct his pork barrel share. *With a report from Christine Avendaño*

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Day 1 CEO Forum / Plenary Session
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9:30 am The New Competitive Reality
10:10 am Global Outsourcing Trends
10:50 am Global Outsourcing: Marketing Opportunities & Challenges
11:30 am Open Forum
12:00 nn Lunch
1:30 pm Emerging Technology for Global Competitiveness
2:00 pm Keynote Address: "Brand PHILIPPINES"
2:30 pm Coffee Break
2:45 pm Panel discussion on "Brand PHILIPPINES"
3:35 Discussion Synthesis
Day 2 Sectoral Tracks
8:00 am - 12:00 nn Security and Privacy, Isla Ballroom 2
Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Boracay 1 & 2
8:00 am - 5:00 pm Animation, Isla Ballroom 3
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm Software Development, Isla Ballroom 2
Medical Transcription, Boracay 1 & 2
8:30 am - 12:00 nn Engineering Design and Services, Lubang

Exhibit Hours:
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ROSEBUD COMPLAINT

SC stops DOJ probe of Ping kidnap raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court yesterday upheld a Manila court order that stopped the Department of Justice from pursuing the kidnapping and murder charges filed against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his co-accused, saying the same cases had earlier been filed before the Office of the Ombudsman.

In a 19-page decision, the high court junked the government petition to nullify an order by the late Manila Judge Hermogenes Liwag stopping the DOJ from conducting a preliminary investigation of Lacson, former police Supt. Michael Ray Aquino and several other policemen for the alleged kidnapping of six Chinese nationals and the murder of two of them.

"To allow the same complaint to be filed successively before two or more investigative bodies would promote multiplicity of proceedings. It would also cause undue difficulties to the respondent who would have to appear and defend his position before every agency or body where the same complaint was filed," said the SC decision penned by Justice Adolfo Azcuna.

The court said allowing a DOJ investigation would entail an "unnecessary expenditure of public funds," and the use of valuable and limited resources of government since it would only duplicate the proceedings already started by the Ombudsman.

"There is (also) the distinct possibility that the two bodies exercising jurisdiction at the same time would come up with conflicting resolutions regarding the guilt of the respondents," it added.

The case stemmed from the complaint of controversial police agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong, who accused Lacson and his men of kidnapping Chinese nationals Zeng Jia Xuan, Hong Zhen Quiao, Zeng Kang Pang, James Wong, Wong Kam Chong and Chong Hui Ming.

Ong claimed that Wong and Chong were later executed.

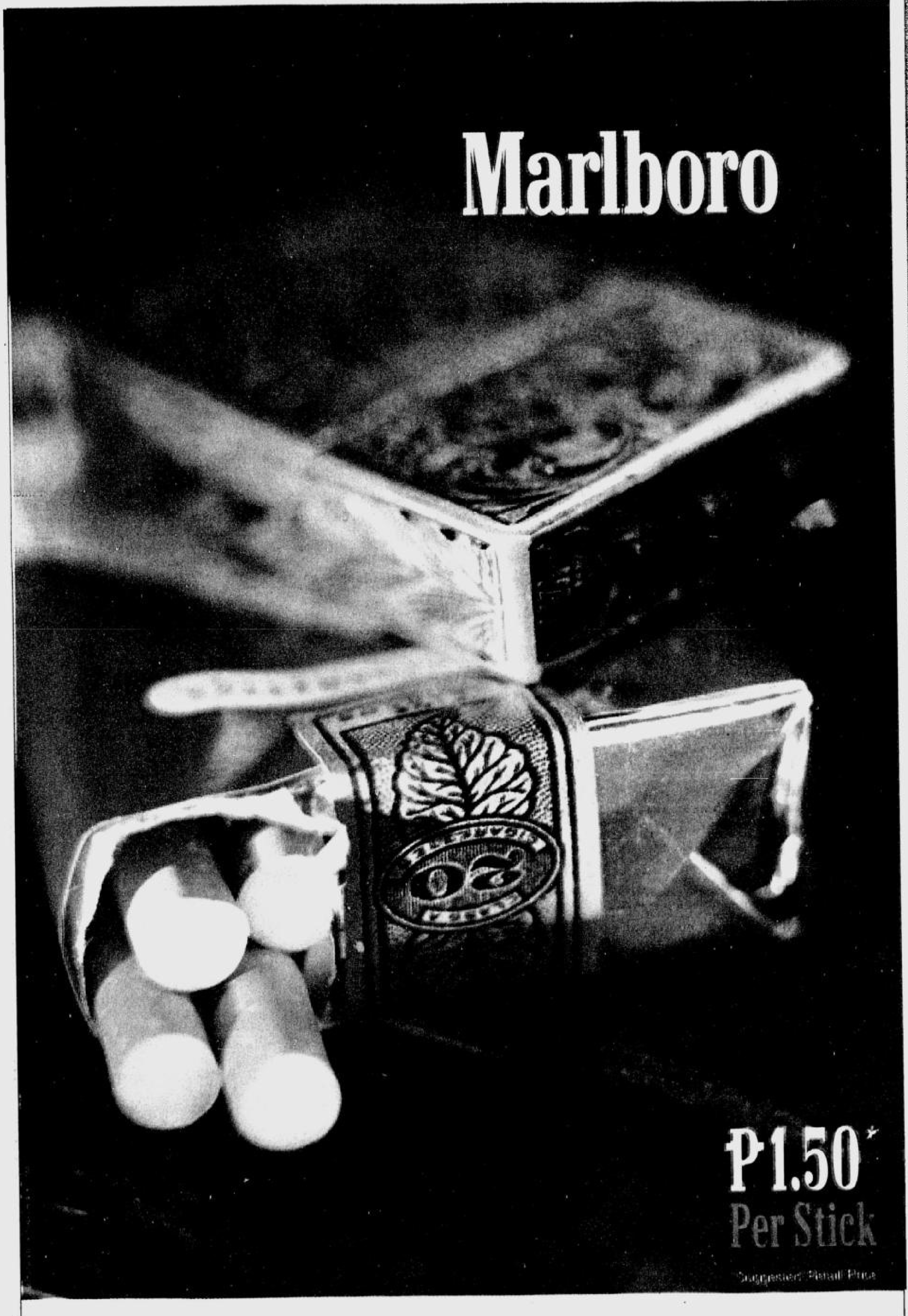
Ong initially filed the complaint before the Ombudsman on Jan. 8, 2001. However, Ong and other witnesses executed sworn statements before the National Bureau of Investigation on March 9, 2001, on the same cases.

The NBI recommended that the DOJ investigate Lacson and his men, who were subpoenaed on May 7, 2001. However, the respondents were able to secure a writ of preliminary injunction from Liwag on June 22, 2001.

In its decision, the Supreme Court said that the government failed to prove that Liwag abused his authority when he issued the injunction stopping the DOJ investigation.

"From all the foregoing, it is clear that petitioners have not shown any grave abuse of discretion tantamount to lack or excess of jurisdiction committed by respondent judge," the tribunal said.

The court said that since the the complaint was initially filed with the Ombudsman, it has the authority to proceed with the preliminary investigation to the exclusion of the DOJ.



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Funds still short for repairs of typhoon-hit schools

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE DEPARTMENT of Education is still in dire need of funds for the rehabilitation of more than 1,300 public schools destroyed by the deadly typhoons that hit Luzon late last year.

The DepEd has so far raised over P75 million in "money" and "pledges" but this is still way below the DepEd's target of P500 million, Education Secretary Florencio Abad admitted yesterday.

Abad said that if the DepEd fails to reach the needed amount, it would have to use the School Rehabilitation Fund and the Regular Building Fund to rehabilitate the devastated schools.

But he said this would affect other parts of the country where additional schools are also needed.

"What will happen is we will have to prioritize the money," Abad told reporters. "If worse comes to worst, there are other options. For example, our school building program for the coming year can be focused on those schools that cannot be covered by our 'Sagip Eskwela' project."

The DepEd had hoped to raise the amount by Feb. 18 so it could finish the reconstruction before the school opening in June.

Abad reiterated his appeal for donor institutions and those who have the means to extend their assistance now, saying this would still be the best option.

That way, "we don't need to resort to the use of the school rehab fund and the regular building fund, (and) then we can devote those funds to additional school buildings in many parts (of the country)," he said.

"This is the time for those who are better-off in life to show concern.

"What better way to demonstrate solidarity than to help rebuild the schools where the beneficiaries are children," he said.

Already, some good Samaritans have responded to Abad's call for assistance. These include a cooperative which gave P100,000, another group which is donating six classrooms and a tobacco firm which will provide 2,000 school desks worth P35 million.

"Two weeks ago we met with the donor community... Yesterday, we met with 12 ambassadors of the European Commission," he said. They have all expressed willingness to help.

Abad said the funds may be coming in trickles because the devastation in Luzon happened before the deadly tsunamis which ravaged countries in the Indian Ocean.

ABAD

The attention, Abad said, was focused on these countries.

"But now that it has settled down, and I think that those counties have raised enough money... now is the time to continue drumming up interest especially of the foreign donors," he said.

Spare schools, Abad asks Sulu combatants

By Luige A. del Puerto

EDUCATION Secretary Florencio Abad appealed to combatants in the fighting on Jolo island to spare schools from involvement in their conflict.

"Our appeal to them is to declare the schools 'zones of peace' and allow classes to proceed," Abad told reporters. "At least, refrain from going there. Don't hide there. (Don't) make them your battleground."

"Don't bring the conflict to the school grounds, and stop the fighting so the kids can go back to school," he added. "That's the best. We can only appeal to their consciences to do that."

In the past, schools in the southern Philippines had been hit in the crossfire between government forces and Moro guerrillas.

Abad said the department was waiting for a report from the Department of Education office in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which directly supervises Sulu schools, on the extent of damage to any school facility and the extent of disruption of classes.

"They are autonomous, but we are willing to help them," Abad said, adding he feared some schools might have been damaged in the five-day-old conflict.

"If classes are just suspended, it's just a matter of extending the calendar. If there have been damages, and they don't have the money, we have to help them raise the funds for it," Abad said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 12, 2005
Saturday after Ash Wednesday

1st Reading:	Is 58:9-14
Gospel:	Luke 5:27-32

Jesus noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting in the tax office, he said to him, "Follow me." So Levi, leaving everything, got up and followed Jesus.

Levi gave a great feast for Jesus, and many tax collectors came to his house and took their place at table with the other people. Then the Pharisees and their fellow teachers complained to Jesus' disciples, "How is it that you eat and drink with tax collectors and other sinners?" But Jesus spoke up, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. I have come to call to repentance; I call sinners, not the righteous."

Commentary

These commands are the way to live Lent: remove the yoke of injustice, wicked words from our speech, the clenched fist, share our food, bring relief to the oppressed. Then in these days of the desert we will know the company of our God and water and light that brings strength physically renewed and our communities and church, perhaps even our nation will be made whole, healed and obedient to God. We'll have new names as a people because of what we do: Breach-mender, Restorer of ruined houses and we will know delight in God's presence. Jesus calls Matthew, a tax collector, and all of us, no matter our jobs—all of us sinners to follow him and now the ways of greed, self-absorption and being acceptable to the world. This is the time that all of us must acknowledge our sin and stop! Lord Jesus, you are our doctor, our medicine and our wholeness—in your mercy heal us again so that we may do for others what you do for us so faithfully. Amen.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY)—Estafa—Petitioners were convicted of the crime of Estafa under Article 315 of the Revised Penal Code. Deceit is defined as the false representation of a matter of fact, whether by words or conduct, by false or misleading allegations, or by concealment of that which should have been disclosed which deceives or is intended to deceive another so that he shall act upon it to his legal injury. False pretense is any deceitful practice or device by which another is led to part with the property in the thing taken. The failure of petitioners and accused in not paying the back taxes and in misappropriating the money to their own personal use, constitute the crime of Estafa. Even if the land exists, the crime of Estafa is committed when petitioners and accused convinced complainant to part with her money on the basis of their assurance that they will pay the back taxes due on the land so as to secure a title over the land and a portion thereof titled in the name of complainant. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Austria-Martinez, Second Division, Pablo vs People, G. R. No. 138090, November 11, 2004]

By R. B. Vera

Mga Kailangang Linawin Tungkol sa Bagong North Luzon Expressway

Sa pagbubukas ng bagong NLE, hangad naming linawin ang ilang mahalagang punto para sa kapakanan ng ating motorista.

Tanong

Bakit tumaas ang toll fee?

Sagot:

Mataas ang toll fee kung ikukumpara sa dating bayad sa lumang NLEX. Pero, ngayon ang NLE ay bago na. Kung kaya't bago na rin ang toll fee.

Tanong

Mas mataas nga ba raw ang toll fees sa NLE kaysa sa toll fees ng South Luzon Expressway (SLEX)?

Sagot:

Hindi po. Sa katunayan, mababa pa nga ng kaunti ang sinisingil sa NLE kung ikukumpara sa SLEX. Kung pag-uusapan naman ang SLEX sa ilalim ng Skyway, ito po ang mga pagkakaiba ng toll fees sa bawa't kilometro:

	Class 1 Vehicle (P)	*Class2 Vehicle* (P)	*Class 3 Vehicle* (P)
NLE	2.48	6.21	7.45
SLEX	4.17	8.35	12.52

Kung ikukumpara naman ang NLE sa Skyway sa SLEX, ito po ang makikitang pagkakaiba ng tollrates bawa't kilometro:

	Class 1 Vehicle (P)	*Class2 Vehicle* (P)	*Class 3 Vehicle* (P)
NLE	2.91	7.27	8.73
SLEX	8.85	17.71	26.56

Tanong

Bakit tila hindi nakapagbigay ng sapat na abiso sa amin tungkol sa mga toll rates. Naging sanhi tuloy ito ng pagkabigla namin.

Sagot:

Ipagpaumanhin po ninyo. Pero matagal na rin po naming naibalita ang nalalapit na pagtataas ng toll fee sa mga pahayagan at tabloid, at maging sa radyo at telebisyon. Umikot rin po kami at nakipag-dialogue sa mga transport groups at sa iba't ibang sektor at nakipagusap sa ating mga lider sa pamahalaan, mga LGU at lehislatura.

Gayunpaman, laging bukas ang aming pinto sa patuloy na pakikipag-ugnayan sa ating mga motorista at publiko.

Tanong

Marami pa po kaming katanungan na di pa nasasagot ng lubusan? Saan po puedeng magtanong?

Sagot:

Maari po kayong tumawag sa aming Customer Service Center sa teleponong ito: 580- 8910.

Tanong

Ano naman po itong Open System? Bakit pareho ang bayad ng nag-exit sa Valenzuela at ng nag-exit naman sa Bocaue samantalang pareho lamang pong galing sa Balintawak Toll Plaza?

Sagot:

Pahintulutan ninyo kaming magpaliwanag nang ganito: Walang po pinag-iba iyan sa "flag-down rate" ng taxi. Pagpasok pa lamang ninyo, mayroon na pong "flat fee" na kailangang ibayad.

Tanong

Bakit ito tinawag na "Open System"?

Sagot:

Ang simpleng sagot ay ganito: Pagkatapos ninyong magbayad sa Balintawak toll plaza, "open" na po ang lahat ng toll exits mula Valenzuela hanggang Marilao. Tuloy-tuloy na kayong lalabas at di na kayo papara ulit sa mga nasabing exits.

Tanong

Ano naman itong "Closed System"?

Sagot:

Ang "Closed System" ay nagsisimula sa Marilao northbound hanggang dulo ng NLEx sa Sta. Ines, Pampanga at pabalik. Ito ay pangkaraniwang sistema sa mga tollway kung saan ang kaukulang bayad ay batay sa bawa't kilometrong nilakbay.

Tanong

Bakit kailangang magbabayad ng dalawang beses kung halimbawang lalabas ako sa tinatawag na closed system?

Sagot:

Ayon sa bagong sistema, dadaan kayo sa 'open' system at tatawid kayo sa "closed" system. Magbabayad muna kayo ng flat fee at pagkatapos, bawa't kilometro na ang bayad sa kahit saang exit na bahagi ng "closed system".

Halimbawa lang po. Pagpasok ninyo sa Balintawak , magbabayad muna kayo ng P42. Pagkatapos, babayaran ninyo ang balanse ng kabuuang toll fee sa Dau Toll Plaza palabas ng NLEX.

Sana po ay nasagot namin ang inyong mga katanungan.

Hinihingi po namin ang inyong pang-unawa at suporta.

Sa mga sumusunod na araw, natitiyak naming makikita at mararamdaman ninyo ang mga benepisyong dulot ng bagong Expressway.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gue

Bush ignored Jan. 2001 memo on al-Qaida threat

WASHINGTON — A newly released memo warned the White House at the start of the Bush administration that al-Qaida represented a threat throughout the Islamic world, a warning that critics said went unheeded by President George W. Bush until the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The memo dated Jan. 25, 2001—five days after Bush took office—was an essential feature of last year's hearings into intelligence failures before the attacks on New York and Washington. A copy of the document was posted on the National Security Archive website on Thursday.

The memo, from former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke to then-national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, had been described during the hearings but its full contents had not been disclosed.

Clarke, a holdover from the Clinton administration, had requested an immediate meeting of top national security officials as soon as possible after Bush took office to discuss combating al-Qaida. He described the network as a threat with broad reach.

PRESIDENT Bush speaking on Social Security at a town hall meeting in Raleigh, N.C. Feb. 10. AP

"Al-Qaida affects centrally our policies on Pakistan, Afghanistan, Central Asia, North Africa and the GCC (Gulf Arab states). Leaders in Jordan and Saudi Arabia see al-Qaida as a direct threat to them," Clarke wrote.

"The strength of the network of organizations limits the scope of support friendly Arab regimes can give to a range of US policies, including Iraq policy and the (Israeli-Palestinian) Peace Process. We would make a major error if we underestimated the challenge al-Qaida poses."

The memo also warned of overestimating the stability of moderate regional allies threatened by al-Qaida.

It recommended that the new administration urgently discuss the al-Qaida network, including the magnitude of the threat it posed and strategy for dealing with it.

The document was declassified on April 7, 2004, one day before Rice's testimony before the Sept. 11 commission. It was released recently by the National Security Council to the National Security Archive—a private library of declassified US documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

The meeting on al-Qaida requested by Clarke did not take place until Sept. 4, 2001. *Reuters*

Americans' confidence in Bush slips in 2nd term

WASHINGTON—The public's confidence in President George W. Bush's job performance and the United States' direction have slipped in the opening weeks of his second term, particularly among people 50 and older, according to an Associated Press poll.

Adults were evenly divided on Bush's job performance in January, but now 54 percent disapprove and 45 percent approve. The number who thinks the country is headed down the wrong track increased from 51 percent to 58 percent in the past month.

The survey wasn't all bad for the Bush administration: People are slightly more optimistic about the possibility of a stable, democratic Iraq.

The poll, conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs, was taken after the president's State of the Union address and the elections in Iraq and at the start of a heated debate over creating personal Social Security accounts.

Older Americans, especially those 65 and above, were most responsible for the declining confidence and approval numbers. Middle-aged people between 30 and 50 were about evenly split on Bush's job performance.

"It looks like people are reacting to the State of the Union and plans to change Social Security," said Charles Franklin, a political scientist from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The AP poll did not ask about Social Security, although only four in 10 in the poll said they approved of Bush's handling of domestic policy in general. And a majority of people disapproved of his handling of the economy.

The AP-Ipsos consumer confidence index found people were less optimistic about the economy generally, a dip that comes after reports of sluggish job gains and increasing interest rates.

"I voted Republican, but it looks like things are going downhill," said Kenny Sproull of Lexington, Georgia, who works in construction. "I'm a self-employed contractor and a lot of Mexicans are moving into the state. We can't compete with them price-wise."

Most Republicans were strongly supportive of Bush and his policies.

"I agree with almost everything President Bush says," said Beverly Bowman, a nurse who lives near Phoenix. "I think the Social Security thing has to be fixed."

The poll was taken at a time that some leaders in both parties have begun to question elements of the president's proposal to change Social Security, said Robert Shapiro, a specialist on polling and politics at Columbia University. During that time, details of Bush's proposed 2006 budget cuts have been emerging.

A bright spot for the administration was increased confidence in the likelihood of a stable, democratic Iraq.

"From what I hear in the news, it sounds like the Iraqis really want it," said Bill Harrer, a nurse's aide in Mason City, Iowa, who considers himself a political independent. "But it's going to take a long time."

Just over four in 10, 42 percent, said they approved of the president's handling of Iraq, while 57 percent disapproved.

Since the elections that were considered fairly successful, insurgent attacks have resumed, killing both Iraqis and US troops.

Many in the public are not getting the full Iraq story, said Republican William Reid of Columbus, Ohio.

Reid watches for newscasts that he says "tell the real story about the good things that are happening over there, about soldiers helping kids and giving them food." *AP*

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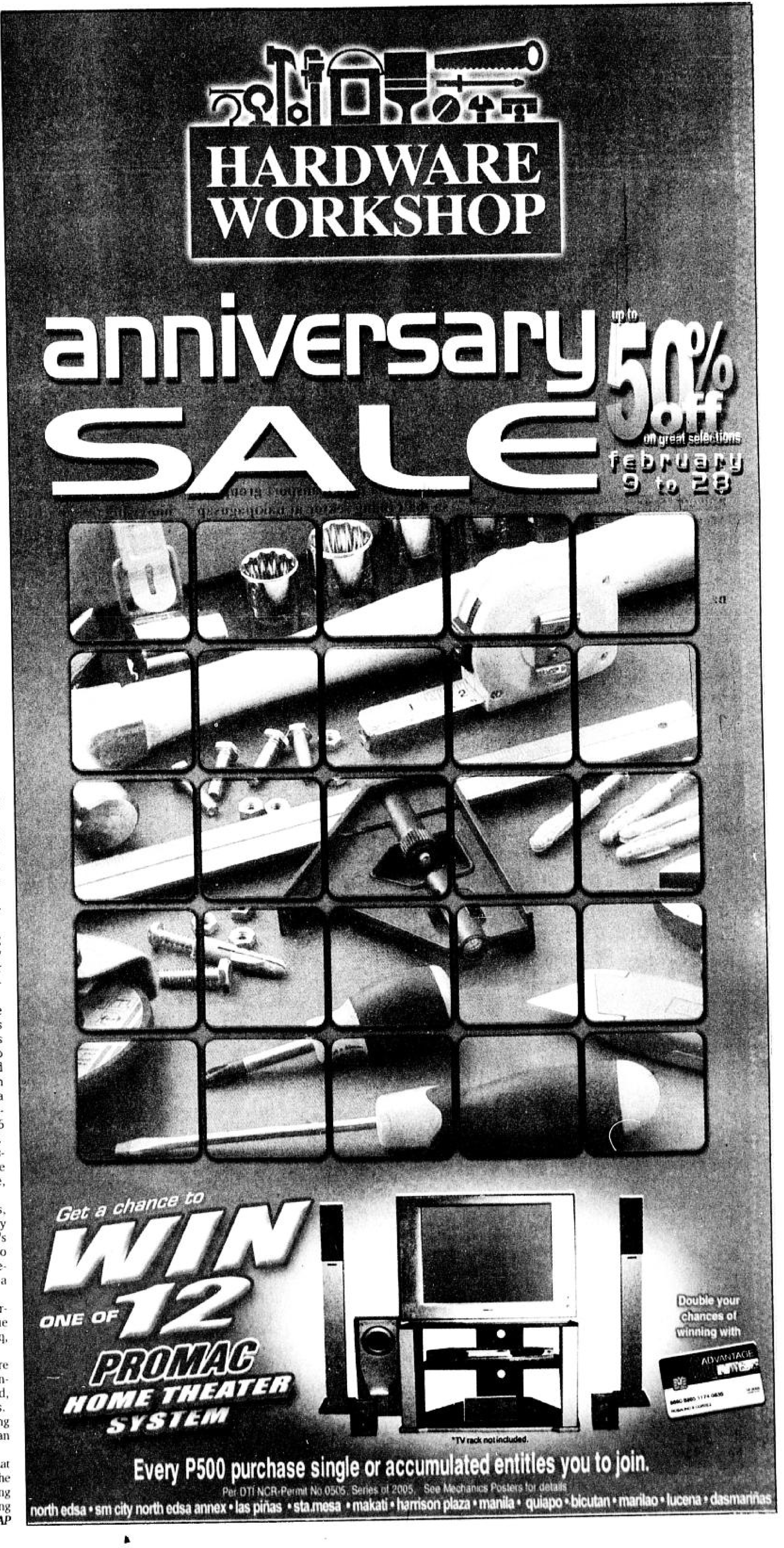

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Teenager rescued 45 days after tsunami disaster

PORT BLAIR, India—A teenager who lived on wild fruits and coconuts for 45 days after tsunamis ravaged the Indian Ocean archipelago of Andamans in December has been rescued, police said Friday.

The 18-year-old was evacuated Wednesday from Pillopanja, one of the southernmost islands of the archipelago ravaged by the giant waves on Dec. 26, the police chief of nearby Campbell Bay island, Shaukat Hussain, said.

He identified the woman only as Jessy and said her husband and her 1-year-old child were missing and presumed dead.

"Jessy took to the forests when the waves came but by the time she came out after several days the rest of the population had been either evacuated to Campbell Bay or swept away by the waves," Hussain said by telephone.

Fewer than 1,000 people lived on Pillopanja, one of the many islets where mainland settlers have built homes and farms, before the tsunami struck.

Police said another tribal resident, identified only as Michael, returned to the devastated island Wednesday and found the seriously ill woman on a deserted beach.

"Michael found her on the ocean's desolate shores and alerted the crew of the boat that had taken him there," said Hussain.

Jessy was ferried back to Campbell Bay and receiving urgent medical treatment. "She has lost weight and her body is swollen and scarred by mosquito bites," he said.

It takes nearly four hours to reach Pillopanja by powerboat from Campbell Bay, the administrative headquarters of the archipelago's Great Nicobar islands.

Hussain said the young woman survived on wild jackfruit, coconuts and the little fresh water she could scavenge on the deserted island.

The tsunami killed some 2,000 people on the archipelago's 36 inhabited islands and another 5,555 are listed as missing, many of them presumed dead.

On Feb. 2 Indian rescuers found five men, three children and a woman in the crocodile-infested mangroves of Campbell Bay where they had lived off coconuts since the tsunamis battered the island.

India, which administers the Andamans and Nicobar archipelago near Thailand, refuses to give up the search for survivors in the devastated islands, including Katchal where more than 80 percent of the 5,600 population is listed as missing.

Andamans' Nicobari aboriginals, numbering around 29,000, suffered the most in the tsunamis which devastated their fragile homes in islands such as Car Nicobar, Campbell Bay, Nancouri, Kamorta and Katchal.

The waves that killed over 285,000 people throughout Asia also swept away 70 percent of Andamans' lifeline jetties, sank ships and destroyed its largest harbour and dockyards in the administrative capital of Port Blair. *AFP*

Halliburton loses radioactive material

WASHINGTON—Halliburton Co., an oil services company and major military contractor in Iraq and elsewhere, lost track of a shipment of radioactive material in October but didn't alert the government until this week.

Federal authorities mounted an intensive search and found the material Wednesday in Massachusetts.

According to a report Halliburton filed Tuesday with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the material was lost in October as it was being shipped to Texas, where Halliburton is headquartered. It apparently had been misdirected in New Jersey and ended up at the Forward Freight facilities in Boston.

Commission spokesperson Neil Sheehan said Thursday that Halliburton's four-month delay in reporting the loss did not comply with notification requirements, and the incident is under investigation. The material was two sources of the element americium, which is used in oil well exploration. *AP*

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POPE John Paul II in his Popemobile as he leaves Rome's Polyclinic Agostino Gemelli hospital, Feb. 10. Papal spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls announced at midday that the frail Pope had recovered completely from the breathing crisis that led to his urgent hospitalization on Feb. 1. AP

Pope back to work after 9 days in hospital

ROME—Pope John Paul II, just released from a nine-day stint in hospital, is keen to get back to work and was set to review his schedule Friday in consultation with his doctors, according to Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

"He is impatient, naturally obedient to the doctors, but impatient to return to the Vatican and immediately get back to his appointments," Navarro-Valls told Vatican radio on Thursday as the Pope was discharged from Rome's Gemelli clinic.

"The Pope will look at his diary when he gets home and make the decision himself. He will also listen to the opinion of his personal doctor," Renato Buzzonetti, Navarro-Valls told a press conference earlier on Thursday.

It was unclear whether John Paul II had recovered sufficiently from his flu and subsequent respiratory problems to preside at a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Friday evening marking the World Day of the Sick.

Then on Sunday he would normally preside at the weekly Angelus prayer, which he delivered with great difficulty last Sunday from his hospital window.

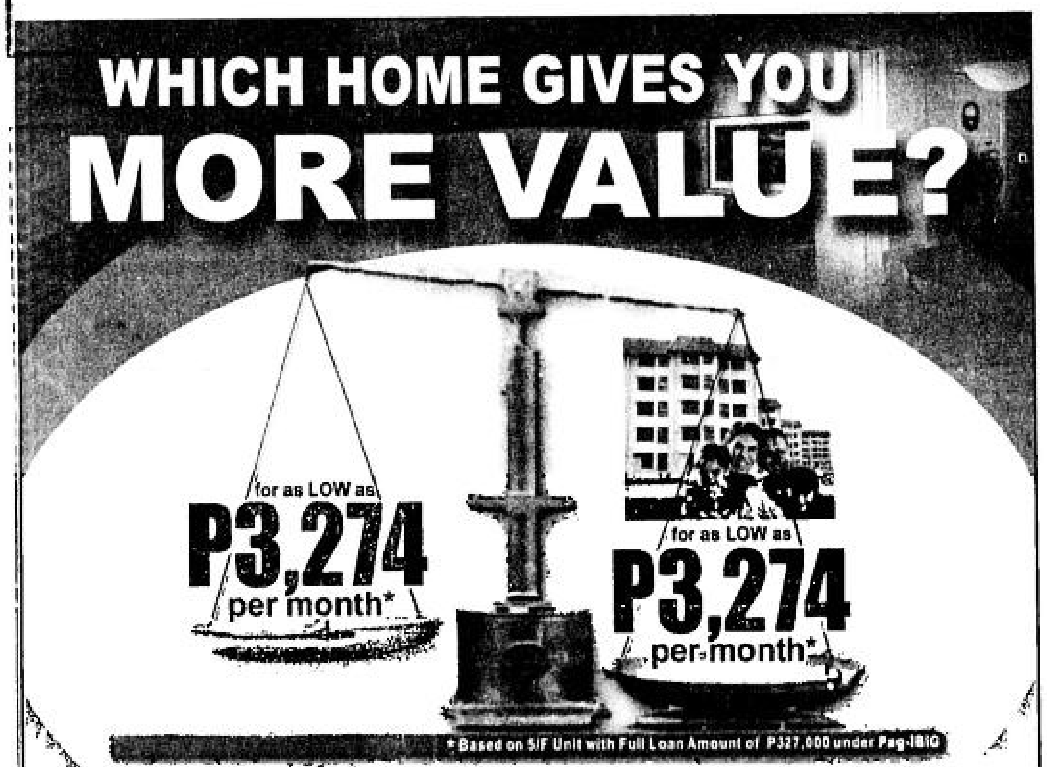
The Pope's illness has sparked an unholy debate over the traditionally taboo question of whether he is well enough to continue to lead the world's more than one billion Roman Catholics.

Asked at the press conference how the Pope sounded Thursday, his spokesperson replied simply, "I could hear him," adding that the Pontiff's voice was "normal."

The head of the Italian bishops' conference, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, said after a brief meeting with the Pontiff last Saturday that he wanted to put the public's mind at ease about his condition, adding that everyone should have "full confidence" in John Paul II.

Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Sodano sparked a raging debate after telling journalists that resignation was "a matter for the Pope's conscience." That unusually candid assessment from the Pope's deputy came only a few days after John Paul II, in a message he was too weak to read himself, said that he continued to serve the Church and "all of humanity" even from his sickbed.

The left-wing daily La Repubblica suggested that Sodano may even have deliberately sparked the debate. *AFP*



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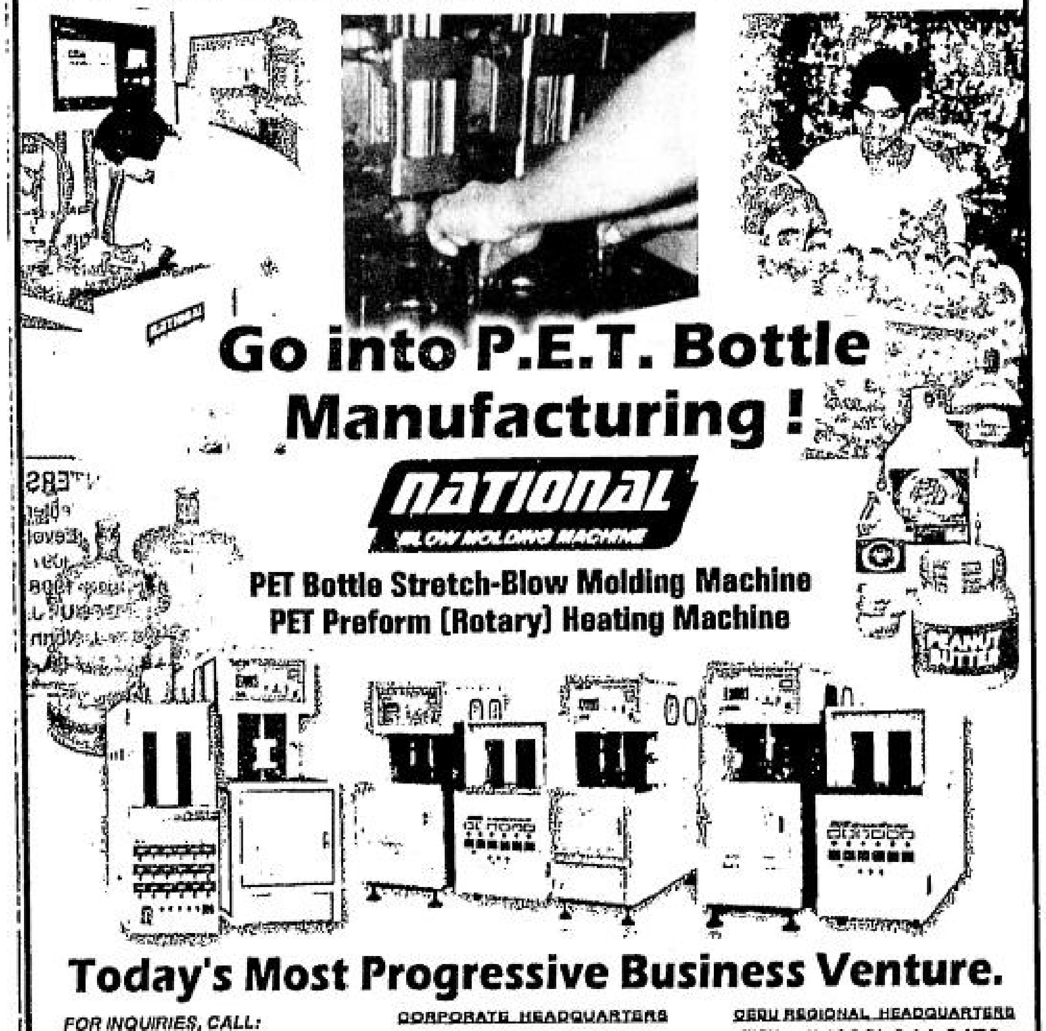

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S. Korea, China urge N. Korea to return to talks

SEOUL—South Korea and China joined calls for North Korea to return to the negotiating table after the isolated communist state announced it had nuclear weapons and had pulled out indefinitely from disarmament talks.

The move by the North presents a major challenge to US President George W. Bush, starting his second term with a policy aimed at ending North Asia's nuclear crisis through the six-party talks that China has been shepherding for nearly two years.

Standing right in the firing line is South Korea, under constant threat from a neighbor that keeps 70 percent of its 1.2-million-strong Army along a border that passes just 65 km north of the capital, Seoul.

"The assessment is that North Korea may be trying to raise its negotiating stakes," Vice Foreign Minister Lee Tae-shik was quoted as saying. "But it could turn into a very serious problem if the North takes additional steps."

North Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday the state had been forced to boost its defenses and to acquire nuclear weapons to contend with US hostility and the policy of the Bush administration to seek regime change.

It pulled out of the six-way talks, which also involve the United States, China, Russia, Japan and South Korea, but left the door open a crack to a possible resumption of negotiations.

Seoul shares edged slightly lower on Friday and the won sagged after the North's boast chilled investment sentiment.

South Korean officials swiftly joined their US counterparts in saying talks were the only solution to end the North's isolation. They said the news only confirmed what was already known about the North's nuclear ambitions.

Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon, speaking in Washington on Thursday, said the South could not tolerate the North possessing nuclear weapons.

China, one of North Korea's few friends, issued a brief response.

"We hope the talks can be continued," the Xinhua news agency quoted foreign ministry spokesperson Kong Quan as saying late on Thursday. "China was watching the situation," he said.

China is almost certain to come under intense pressure to try to bring Pyongyang back to the negotiating table since it is seen as the only country that might be able to exert some influence.

Australia, one of the few Western countries to have official ties with the North, tried to mediate.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said he had spoken with North Korean Ambassador Chon Jae-hong and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and hoped the climate for talks would improve.

"I took some encouragement from the fact that although (Chon) thought the climate wasn't right at the moment, that implied that matters could change and the climate could be better," he said.

Some analysts said North Korea might be raising the stakes while US attention was focused on Iran's nuclear programs in order to obtain better terms. North Korea has engaged in brinkmanship in the past at crucial diplomatic junctures. *Reuters*

Saudi men vote in first-ever polls

RIYADH—Saudi men went to the polls Thursday in the first round of municipal elections, the first ever nationwide ballot in the ultraconservative kingdom billed as a step toward reform but barred to women.

Polling stations closed in and around Riyadh at 5 p.m., nine hours after voters started flocking into the centers to pick half the members of 38 municipal councils—a total of 104 candidates—that will serve in the capital and surrounding areas.

Turnout picked up as the day went by and the voting took place in a relaxed atmosphere amid low-key security despite the fact that the oil-rich kingdom has been battling a wave of terror attributed to al-Qaida militants for the past 21 months.

"We will recommend that women vote next time," said Riyadh mayor Prince Abdul Aziz bin Ayyaf al-Muqrin after casting his ballot in a center in eastern Riyadh named after the city's governor Prince Salman.

Between 140,000 and 150,000 men out of 470,000 eligible voters registered to cast ballots in the first round of the three-phase polls, in which half the members of 178 municipal councils will be elected across the vast kingdom.

The other half will be appointed by the government.

Although only local monitors observed the polls, a seven-member delegation from the European Parliament including two women dropped in at polling stations, having timed a visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the appointed Shura (consultative) Council to coincide with the ballot.

"It's historic," said John Purvis, a Euro MP from Scotland.

The election is "a small step but it's a first step. I think it (the reform process) will snowball and gain momentum," said Purvis, although he added it was sad that women were not able to vote or run for office.

Abdul Aziz al-Zaid, a 46-year-old civil servant who cast his ballot in a primary school-turned polling center, had no doubt that the limited reforms initiated by Saudi rulers will take on a life of their own.

"It's good for him. He can see what the future will look like," Zaid said, pointing at his teenage son Ziyad, whom he insisted on bringing along to witness the historic moment.

An election official said provisional results of the vote would be out within two days.

But final results will not be announced until a few days later to allow time for any candidates wishing to contest them to do so, and might be coupled with the release of the names of the appointees to the councils, the official said, requesting anonymity.

The municipal vote came a week after US President George W. Bush issued a rare rebuke to Saudi Arabia, urging the kingdom to "demonstrate its leadership in the region by expanding the role of its people in determining their future."

Washington on Wednesday described the vote as a "welcome development," and expressed the hope that Saudi women, who make up more than 50 percent of the population, would be included in future.

Around 200 polling stations were set up for voters to choose from a field of 1,818 candidates, 646 of whom stood in Riyadh proper to fill half of its 14-seat council. *AFP*

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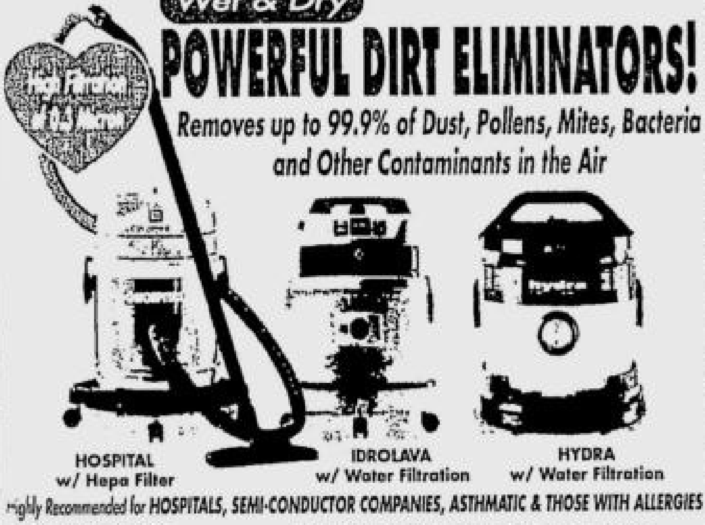

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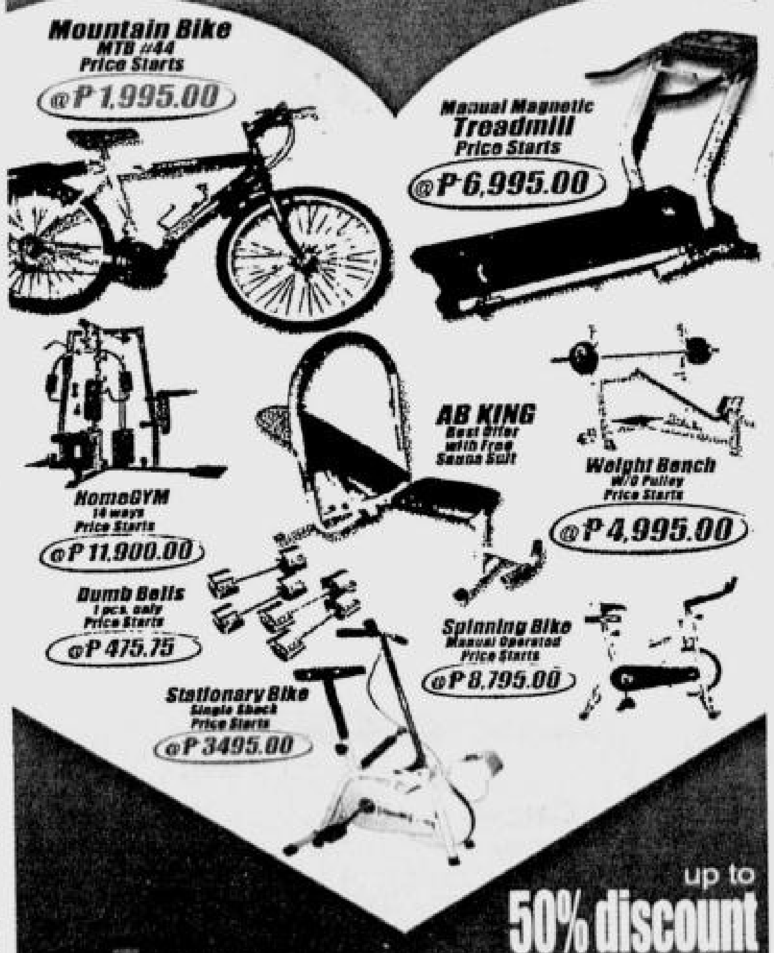

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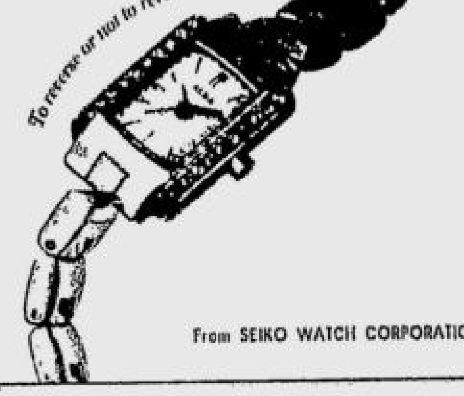

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DESCRIPTION	KEYWORD
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Madly & Deeply Inlove	PATRICK6
I Love You	CINDY1
Greetings From Ur Friends	CINDY10
Sana Daw Ikaw Ang Valentine Nya	MARVIN3
Sana Daw Ikaw Ang Valentine Nya	CHRISTIAN3
Sana Daw Ikaw Ang Valentine Nya	KITCHIE2
Madly & Deeply Inlove	HEART2
For Those Feeling Lonely	KRIS1
I Love You	DIET4
For Those Feeling Lonely	DIET5
Me & U Alone	DIET6
Consoling A Broken Hearted/Sad Girl	CHRISTIAN7
Giving Diskarte Tips To A Guy	CHRISTIAN8
Greeting Your Mother	CHRISTIAN9
To Single Ladies This Valentine's Day	AUBREY1
Sana Daw Ikaw Ang Valentine Nya	ECHO3

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KITCHIE NADAL	Happy Birthday	Singing Happy Birthday	KITCHIE1
ROBIN PADILLA	Happy Birthday	Singing Happy Birthday	ROBIN1
DIETHER OCAMPO	Happy Birthday	Hope To Meet You Tonight	DIET1
HEART EVANGELISTA	Get Well	Take It Easy And Get Some Rest	HEART1
MARVIN AGUSTIN	Get Well	Take It Easy And Get Some Rest	MARVIN2
PATRICK GARCIA	I Miss You	Miss Na Miss Ka Na Nya	PATRICK3
CINDY KURLETO	I Miss You	Where Have U Been, We All Miss U	CINDY7
CHESCA GARCIA	Sorry	Pasensya Na Daw	CHESCA5
PATRICK GARCIA	Sorry	Sana Wag Ka Ng Magalit	PATRICK5
ANTOINETTE TAUS	No Worry	OK Na Daw Lahat	ANTOINETTE5
CHESCA GARCIA	No Worry	OK Na Daw Lahat/Inayos Na Namin	CHESCA7
CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA	Cheer Up	Hwag Mong Isipin Yun	CHRISTIAN5
HEART EVANGELISTA	Cheer Up	Everything Will Be OK	HEART3
CHESCA GARCIA	Happy Anniversary	Cheska Revealing Your Surprise Gift To Your Husband/Boyfriend	CHESCA9
PATRICK GARCIA	Happy Anniversary	Patrick Greeting Your Girlfriend Happy Anniversary	PATRICK8

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Disjoint

EDITORIAL

DONALD Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), has said: "Imposing new taxes can cause short-term pains for business and consumers alike. However, its long-term effects will be beneficial in ensuring sustainable and continuous growth of the economy." Together with other groups, the PCCI supports raising the value-added tax rate from the current 10 percent to 12 percent.

But isn't there a disjoint here? Raising taxes, cutting down costs, and all the revenue measures of the government are meant to address the fiscal deficit, are they not? But now the government and other groups are pushing VAT increases and other measures as a means for apparently uplifting the plight of the poor. Here comes the confusion: Government lacks money because of debts and lackluster collections, not to mention an addiction to spending lavishly. The result is to reduce the resources available for health, education and other social services. The answer, according to the government, is... well, we're back to square one, the revenue raising measures.

The disjoint we're pointing out is between a need to raise taxes to ensure the survival of the government, and the supposed other, many benefits of the fiscal measures. Obviously a government in a healthier fiscal state is in a better position to offer basic services. But there remains a crucial difference between raising taxes because of an emergency need, and raising taxes because it's part of a long-term economic policy.

So which is it? The confusion among the administration's allies is evident as is their unwillingness to bite the bullet, so to speak. Now after passing a few of the administration-sponsored revenue measures, some lawmakers are already demanding that they be served their pound of pork pronto.

But can anyone blame them? Even President Macapagal-Arroyo seems to have forgotten that it was the huge government debt (which stood at P3.8 trillion as of November last year) that lent urgency to the enactment of new revenue measures. Earlier this month, she declared that the additional taxes could be used to put up businesses and improve the quality of education. And she hardly talks anymore about the need to narrow the deficit or cut the country's debts, except when international credit rating agencies threaten a credit downgrade.

Which is hardly surprising, considering that after raising the alarm about a looming debt crisis, she rather very quickly announced that it was over as if such things happen with the wave of a magic wand. The impression it gave was that the Arroyo administration was either very capricious or extremely clueless in handling the economy.

The administration may be basking at present on some encouraging economic news. If it has some proven bad habits, one of the biggest is taking credit even for events that may be accidental—or not really of the government's doing.

The hope of the poor lies in responsible, visionary governance. The kind that does not panic, but soberly addresses the problems at hand. We want to see more methodical attitudes toward problem solving, and a more analytical approach to the genuine challenges that face the economy.

So let's clear the air and get it from the horse's mouth: What are the fiscal measures really for? Are they meant to address a potential fiscal crisis, or not? The answers set the parameter for the level of debate that follows. If the taxes are for long-term objectives, then they can be debated at greater length; if they are to stave off a looming crisis, what, then, is that crisis exactly? And what is called for, and within what time frame?

Long way to go

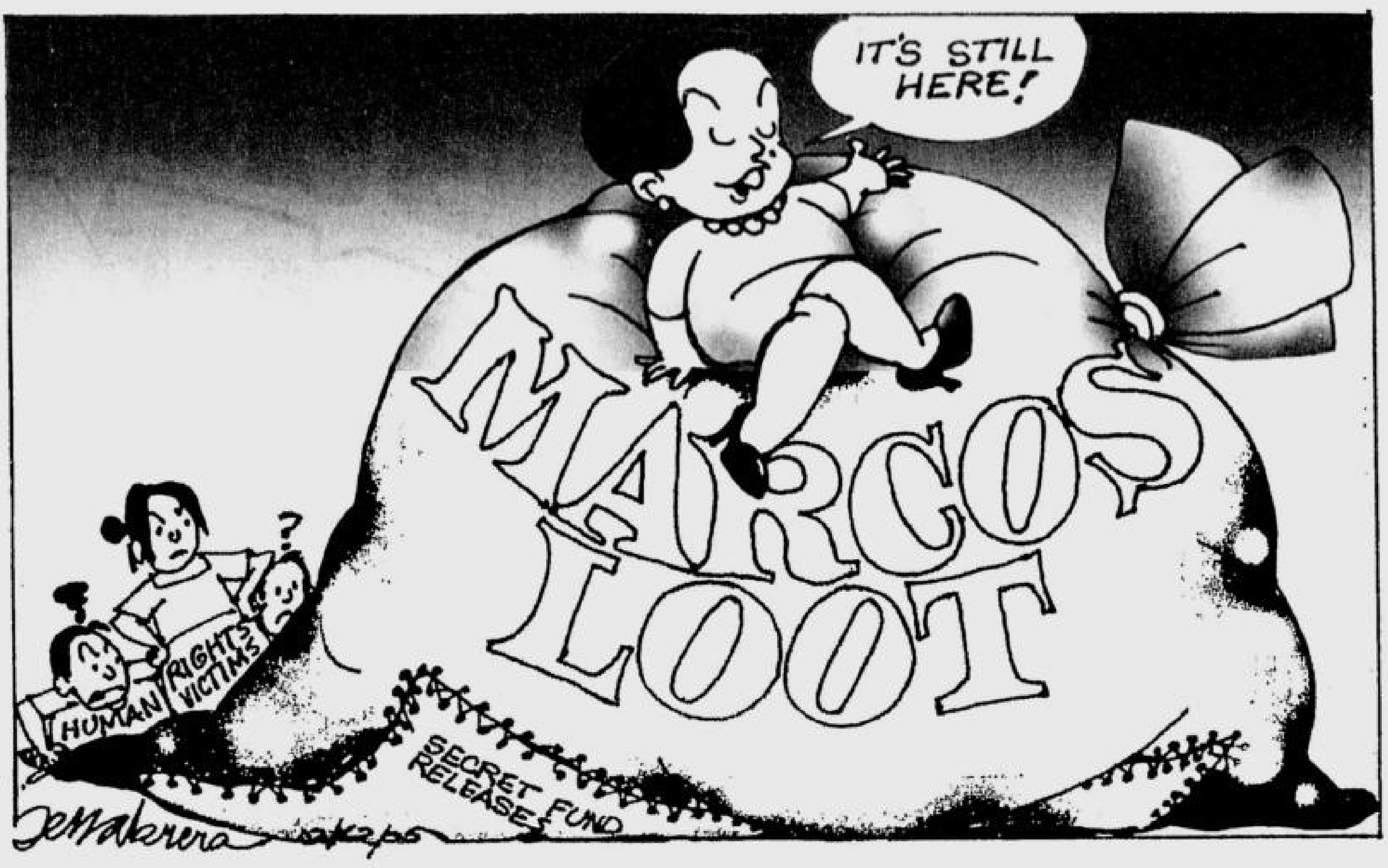
FOREIGN COMMENT

ISRAEL and the Palestinians declaring a ceasefire does not mean that there will be peace in the Middle East.

There is still a long way to go for solutions to all the difficult problems between the parties, and much can go wrong along the way. Even if weapons are laid down, they will remain easily accessible.

Just the same, there is more reason for optimism than for a very long time, because both sides seem determined to succeed this time. For the Palestinians, the conflict has been so destructive that the need for peace is obvious. But it must also be wearing for the Israelis to live on a war footing for so long.

The political shift among the Palestinians after (Yasser) Arafat's death created a clear new opportunity. Now the parties have to use the chance well, with the United States and Europe contributing with pressure and money. *Stavanger Aftenblad (Stavanger, Norway)*



Lincoln and Bush

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I REMEMBER Feb. 12 because our teachers during the American regime in this country would not let us forget it. That was when President Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809. Every year when I was in grade school, we celebrated this red-letter day with programs honoring the great man.

We were frequently reminded of the virtues of Honest Abe, who freed the slaves and saved the Union. We were thrilled when as a young lawyer he defended an innocent man whom a witness swore to have seen committing a murder by the light of the moon. Lincoln proved that there was no moon on the night in question.

Later in high school, we learned another of his remarkable talents. He was an excellent writer. He was the author of the Gettysburg Address, which was a favorite subject in our oratorical contests that were more popular then than basketball. We were moved by his letter to Mrs. Bixby, a widow who had lost her five sons in the Civil War, where he wrote:

"I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

I have an old volume that says Lincoln's brief remarks at the dedication of the Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg were not well received. Possibly, the audience was still preparing to hear him and was perplexed when it realized that the president had finished and returned to his seat. There was only a smattering of applause.

Lincoln himself must have thought that his speech was a failure, but he was soon disabused. Some reporters who had taken notes (no tapes or copies for the press then) had written favorable accounts of the program. The renowned orator, Edward Everett Horton, who was the principal speaker at the ceremonies, said that what he had tried to say in two hours, Lincoln had said in two minutes. Interest in the speech grew and soon the Gettysburg Address had become a classic.

An unexpected tribute came when the Gettysburg Address and the Bixby letter were prescribed for study at Oxford "as perfect specimens of English composition." They might also have included the concluding paragraph of Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, where he said to the Confederacy:

"I am loath to close. We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield; and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angel of our nature."

It is said that when a well-known English jurist was asked to name the greatest British orator of the 19th century, he replied: "Lincoln, the American."

Coming now to the present time, let us talk of George W. Bush, who recently began his second term as President of the United States.

The INQUIRER reported that when he delivered his State of the Union Address before the US Congress last week, he was applauded 61 times during his 53-minute speech. The Republican Party salons were President Dubya's claque while the Democratic legislators sat silent.

I was listening to him on TV but turned to another channel because I could not stand the way the majority partisans in the audience were reacting to their Lord and Master. They were hanging on his every word as if it came from heaven above. Almost every sentence he uttered received a standing and prolonged ovation from his loyal supporters. They stood up and clapped, then sat down, then had to stand up again for applause, and so on. This went on repeatedly ad nauseam.

His admirers must have suffered sore muscles and creaking joints by the way they exhibited their almost slavish support for everything Dubya said. Even Hitler did not receive such abject adulation although he was definitely a much more forceful (and coercive) speaker. It was unbelievable to witness such an unseemly spectacle in the supposed land of the free.

The speech itself as written (and as delivered with the aid of a teleprompter) was acceptable except to the outnumbered Democrats and the more discerning independent critics. Kerry might have done better, and without the over-use of the word "freedom." In any event, there is no question that Bush's State of the Union Address was a far cry from the Gettysburg Address.

Incidentally, Bush is a graduate of Yale while Lincoln had no more than six months of formal schooling in the backwoods of Kentucky. Ghost-writers drafted Dubya's speech but the Gettysburg Address as preserved in the Library of Congress is in Lincoln's own handwriting. Comparison is odious, of course, but it is obvious in this case.

Unqualified

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE CALLS to remove Florante Soriquez as public works secretary started almost as soon as he was appointed in an acting capacity one-and-a half years ago. In fact, that he was appointed at all raised not a few eyebrows. After all, he was linked, among other things, to the alleged megadike scams (he was head of the Pinatubo Commission) and, at the time of his appointment, was (and still is) a defendant in a criminal case before the Sandiganbayan in connection with those projects.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo's confidence in him seemed unshakeable, and she stuck with him through thick and thin. Thus, he was still acting secretary after 20 months in office when retired PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane was appointed to replace him last Wednesday. It took the bureaucratic equivalent of an atom bomb to get her to replace him: a letter of complaint against him signed by 11 out of a total of 16 DPWH regional directors, plus other complaints and demonstrations by his own central office staff up to the assistant secretary level.

The privilege speech of Rep. Rodolfo Plaza may have been the straw that broke the camel's back, although the initial Palace reaction was to ask Soriquez to answer the charges point by point. The replacement order came a day after that, when it became clear that no amount of political dike building on the part of Soriquez could stave off the rising flood of complaints.

But by golly, the President still is seemingly reluctant to cut clean. Instead of kicking him out or even placing him under suspension while the charges are being investigated, she has allowed him to return to his old post as undersecretary. This is because, according to the Palace, he is a "career undersecretary."

Excuse me? True, Soriquez has been with the DPWH since time immemorial, but it must be pointed out that he isn't even eligible for a third-level (director up to undersecretary) position in government. Civil Service rules require CESE (Career Executive Service Eligibility) or CSEE (Career Service Executive Eligibility) for that, and Soriquez has neither. That he was still appointed as assistant secretary, and subsequently undersecretary, is testament to the strength of his connections, or as he has reportedly bragged, to his "closeness" with the Palace.

Soriquez certainly knew what his civil service position was, because he did try to achieve Career Executive Service Officer (CESO) status after he became undersecretary. But even there, it seemed that the attempt was hounded by controversy, which resulted in the uncovering of irregularities in the CESO process (with the help of whistle-blowers from the DPWH, mind you), which in turn led to the resignation of the executive director in charge of that process. It is an interesting tale, and it bears telling if only because it raises more questions about Soriquez's character.

What sent warning bells ringing at the Civil Service Commission about the possibility of irregularities was the fact that Soriquez took the first CESO exam in January, the month in which the exam is not given (until this year, exams were given monthly from February to December). When this was investigated, it was discovered that: (1) he was the only examinee; (2) he was allowed to bring three cell phones with him into the examination room (cell phones are usually not permitted inside the exam room for obvious reasons: the increased likelihood of external assistance in answering the questions); and (3) the results were delivered to his office on the same day he took the exam, service de luxe (the SOP is for exam results to be sent by mail to the examinee, which takes about a week). It also turned out that the husband of the executive director in charge of the exam was a DPWH employee.

The story does not end there. Soriquez did take, and pass, the second and third phases of the CESE exams—a management simulation exercise and a personal interview. But he failed to undergo the fourth and final phase (validation) because he had been appointed acting secretary. What is noteworthy is that even if he had gone through the validation process, he would still not have been granted CESE status. Civil Service rules explicitly prohibit conferring CESE status on anyone with a pending case involving corruption or sexual harassment, and the Sandiganbayan case of Soriquez involves the former. This is part of the integrity requirements.

This is not to say he is guilty of the charges against him. As a matter of fact, the rumors saying this whole case against him was manipulated by an insider syndicate whose corrupt activities were at risk because of his attempts at reforms should definitely be investigated. Moreover, the accusation that he was charging *tong* from his field officers implies that the latter were making money on their own. All this is grist for the mill of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC).

But the long and short of it is that, at the very least, Soriquez is not qualified to be undersecretary by Civil Service standards. Which brings up some interesting questions, such as: What does this say about the President's highly touted search process and her so-called Search Committee charged with getting the best and the brightest for appointive positions? Is this process a sham? Is the committee incompetent? Or is it merely a toothless tiger? Can the President disregard Civil Service rules with impunity?

Hussin: Delayed Nur trial angers followers

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

EARLIER this column wrote about reports swirling in international finance circles about a staggering Marcos wealth amounting to $1 billion (nearly P56 billion, or about 1/16th of the 2005 national budget of P907 billion) recently found in Liechtenstein. But informed sources called up to say that the figure I cited was a little off. It appears that the amount is more than $1 billion and that the main part of the hoard was found in Liechtenstein, but a part was also stashed away in Austria, where Herminio Disini, Imelda Marcos' cousin, purchased a castle years ago. Sources say the Austrian hoard is only now coming to light and that this was due to the European Union's strict laws governing ill-gotten wealth.

* * *

As a co-founder of Alay sa Kawal Foundation, which gives financial assistance to families orphaned by the death of the ordinary soldiers, I am naturally distressed at the news that scores of soldiers, led by a battalion commander, have already perished in the fresh outbreak of hostilities between government forces and those of imprisoned rebel leader Nur Misuari. This means more financial outlay from our foundation. But more than this, it involves the senseless loss of Filipino lives.

* * *

The Senate wants to inquire into the circumstances that triggered this fresh outbreak of violence down south, and here ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin ought to be heard. Hussin was quoted as saying that the followers of Misuari are restless because their leader's trial has been dragging (for nearly four years now), but there's no "serious" trial in sight. Hussin warned that further delay would just ignite more violence from Misuari's followers.

Hussin is absolutely right. But this is not just true of Misuari's case, but of many other cases too. The wheels of justice grind exceedingly slow here, thus contributing to the projection of instability. The Supreme Court, which has administrative supervision over our judicial system, has to look into what's delaying cases beyond reason.

* * *

That the senators even improved on what the House of Representatives allocated as additional budget for the Office of the Ombudsman should be a signal to the whole world that this country intends to curb the graft and corruption. Some weeks back the House under the leadership of Speaker Jose de Venecia decided to put some teeth into the graft and corruption campaign by giving the Ombudsman an extra P140 million over and above its annual budget. Not only did the Senate approve the extra allocation, it even threw in an extra P60 million, so that now Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has an extra P200 million in addition to his P500 million original budget. As Sen. Manuel Villar explained it, Marcelo can now have all the lawyers he needs, as well as put a resident ombudsman in corruption-prone agencies such as the DPWH, SSS, GSIS, Customs and government corporations. Marcelo can now shift to high gear in the campaign to combat the evil of corruption.

* * *

Speaking of the anti-corruption campaign, Cecile Alvarez and I recently had as guest on our Sunday evening program Fr. Melo Diola, a diocesan priest who works with Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal. Fr. Diola spoke about the NGO group he and other religious leaders have formed in Cebu to fight corruption, which answers to the acronym Barug (to fight in Cebuano).

We got to talking about whether the fact that the Philippines, one of only two Christian nations in Asia (the other is Timor L'Este) is also notorious for the corruption is not a failure of the Church here, among other things. I surmised that there's something wrong in the way religion is being taught, as many of the faithful can't seem to relate corruption to sin, or regard it as sinful. I noted, for instance, the huge statues of the Sto. Niño in places such as the BIR and Customs, and how Masses are said in those places often and yet corrupt practices go on there.

* * *

Fr. Diola admitted that this confusion is definitely a failure of the Church and that it ought to try harder to clarify to the faithful that corruption is a sin. This recognition by churchmen of the institution's failure has to be the beginning of wisdom and would be a big step in the fight against corruption. Part of this wisdom is the preparation by the Church of homilies to be read prior to the Edsa 1 celebration on the subject of battling corruption.

* * *

Sen. Miriam Santiago's criticism of the appointment of former PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane as DPWH secretary sounds ridiculous. She opined that appointing Ebdane as the new DPWH chief would encourage all outgoing generals to try to impress the President in the hope of earning brownie points and bagging another job. "In that way, they will be misleading their commander in chief," said Miriam.

But don't all officials, be they military or civilian, seek to earn brownie points so their work would be noticed by their boss? It's a human tendency which is not bad in itself; in fact it drives people to work better. But this assumes that the President is unable to separate the "praise release" from actual performance, or even false claims from the truth. If so, then she needs an effective mechanism for verifying information.

* * *

Recently I wrote about how the Knowledge Channel Foundation, led by its president Rina Lopez-Bautista, has opened a window to the world for ARMM through the installation of an educational TV facility in a pilot school in Maguindanao, one of 154 schools targeted for ETV in the region. I erroneously wrote the name of Rina's mother as Connie Prieto-Lopez, when it should have read Connie Rufino-Lopez. I hope my mistake was understandable, as I was probably thinking of our PDI chair, Marixi Rufino-Prieto, Ms Lopez's second cousin.

'Inside' stories

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S a clarification sent by ABS-CBN News and Public Affairs head Luchi Cruz Valdes to the column item on the "handling" by their network of the story on Baron Geisler, a "Kapamilya" talent who figured in the headlines after getting involved in a vehicular accident while he was obviously "under the influence."

It was a producer, not a reporter, who forgot to log in the story and footage, said Luchi, which resulted in the failure of "TV Patrol," its prime-time newscast, to air the story. This failure, in turn, led to much speculation on the "real" reasons the network kept the lid on an incident involving one of its talents.

But, to be fair, Luchi asserts that ABS-CBN did air a story on Geisler's accident on "Magandang Umaga Bayan," an early morning magazine show, and on "Insider," the late evening newscast, on the same day the story broke. (I don't know, maybe I just missed the story when I was monitoring "Insider" precisely to check what "spin" ABS-CBN would give a negative story involving one of their own.) "TV Patrol" also made an "updated" version of the story the next day, "*para makabawi,*" said Luchi, but the story still failed to air because the day's newscast had run overtime.

* * *

A PREVIOUS obligation compelled me to leave before the close of "Media Nation 2," a national summit of the media held last weekend in Tagaytay, so I'm not privy to the final agreements and statement. One of the more prominent suggestions, aired frequently during the summit, though, was the creation of a "media beat" among the country's news organizations, where developments and issues within the media industry would be covered, analyzed and discussed.

If I remember right, Dave Celdran, executive producer at ANC, the ABS-CBN 24-hour news channel on cable, even offered to produce a show precisely on this concept.

A "media beat" seems timely, especially on TV news coverage since the intense competition between ABS-CBN and GMA-7, the two broadcast giants that comprise what some participants in the summit had dubbed the "duopoly" reigning over our airwaves, has seeped into the way they report on events and personalities. As I pointed out in an earlier column, the coverage given to showbiz personalities who find themselves in the news often depends on what stable they belong to. ABS-CBN reports tend to come down hard on GMA-7 talents and vice-versa.

ABS-CBN, though, seems to have more than its talents' welfare to consider in its news coverage. Being part of the Lopez Group of Companies which has interests in public utilities and with many of them embroiled in controversies like rate hikes, the station is hard put to dispel viewers' suspicions regarding its angling of stories on, say, power rates and Meralco. ABS-CBN employees in the summit didn't even bother to conceal the fact that their bosses do tend to have a special interest in stories affecting the family's business interests. But as one producer pointed out: "I personally haven't been told anything other than to make sure the story is balanced," and that "they" are allowed to make their side aired.

* * *

SOMETIMES, though, people tend to read more into decisions made by ABS-CBN News and Public Affairs than is warranted by the actual events.

Even before "Media Nation 2" opened, most of the participants had already received text messages decrying the decision of higher management, Luchi Cruz Valdes, in particular, not to air a segment of the public affairs show "Correspondents" that devoted an entire episode to the labor strife in Hacienda Luisita. According to the text messages, Kris Aquino, a top ABS-CBN talent whose maternal side of the family owns Hacienda Luisita, used her influence to have that particular segment "killed."

When a participant brought up this allegation, Luchi felt compelled to dive into the background that led to this decision of hers.

The segment was devoted to allegations, already written about extensively by Larry Henares, for one, in his columns in the Inquirer many years ago, that the wealth of the Cojuangcos can reportedly be traced to the relationship between Isidra Cojuangco and Philippine revolutionary Gen. Antonio Luna. Luna supposedly left either gold bars or the Katipunan's payroll in Isidra's keeping, but the spinster-aunt of the senior Cojuangcos is accused of using the treasure she was given to buy Hacienda Luisita and set off her clan on the road to becoming one of the country's richest clans.

As Luchi tells it, the trouble with the story as it was prepared for "Correspondents," was that it was based purely on allegations (through interviews with Henares and former National Archives director Ric Manapat), and "merely" quoted off-cam National Historical Institute director (and Inquirer columnist) Ambeth Ocampo who expressed skepticism about the story's provenance. "Lack of balance and paltry research" were thus the real reasons for the story's axing.

* * *

THESE stories alone would seem to justify a "media beat" that would address not just issues involving the credibility of the various news media, but also provide media consumers the "inside story" behind the coverage of particular stories, including how "scoops" are scored, or when there are allegations of wrongdoing or outside falsehood in the gathering of a "hot" story.

A "media beat" might also provide the often-banal and unexciting reality behind accusations of "censorship" or bias. We in the media are often accused of having no qualms about exposing the rotten underbelly of other institutions, while being over-sensitive and defensive when faced with criticism about our own profession.

And when we refuse to adopt transparency in our industry, our audience has proven it has no qualms about inventing its own stories about us.

It's amnesia time

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SEVERAL people have been calling to ask that I write on the 60th anniversary of the Liberation when 100,000 Manileños were massacred. But one wonders if aside from them anybody else cares? Certainly not the government which hasn't seen fit to even honor the Katipuneros with a memorial in Manila although one senator has managed to dump a statue of Lapu-lapu in a park supposedly reserved for heroes of the Revolution. Even when celebrating what they considered a hundred years of independence in 1998, there was no lasting tribute to remember them—just the remains of the Expo in Clark with Styrofoam façades. I wouldn't be surprised if soon we'd have forgotten who started the Revolution of '96.

The government hasn't bothered with a tribute to the guerrillas either, 60 years or no 60 years, but they are celebrating a Philippine-Japan Festival this month and have been doing so for the past decade. As I've said before, if we had any self-esteem (which seems to have gone down the drain together with the economy), we would at least have had the decency to choose any month other than February to celebrate Philippine-Japanese friendship. This after all was the month that saw a destruction by "sword and fire" that did not just level a whole city but drove a people to their knees. I don't think we've ever quite recovered.

But why should we expect anything? One imagines that we owe Japan a ton of money or we are beholden to the Japanese because they've given us grants or tractors or roller skates in the millions and you don't want to get into a diplomatic fracas now, would you?

It's gotten so ridiculous that the town of Mabalacat has conveniently forgotten that more than a million Filipinos died in that war, with 100,000 murdered in Manila in February. Instead they chose to remember the kamikaze pilots and honored them with a statue. What can you say about a people like that?

One wonders how we expect anybody to respect us when we don't even respect ourselves. A people who pay tribute to their former enemies rather than to their own heroes? You must admit there's something very wrong here.

On this 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Auschwitz, Holocaust survivors gathered and prayed the kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, as well as Christian prayers. It says "such gestures movingly conjured up the past." Last Feb. 3, a priest who shall remain nameless attended a ceremony supposedly commemorating the liberation at the Manila City Hall and heard one councilor praising the mayor's uncle and then the mayor praising his uncle, too. No one appeared to have remembered those 100,000 dead.

Soon enough World War II will cease to be a living memory as survivors die off and yet we still haven't gotten the story straight. To be fair, it's not as though we've come to terms with our history, whether with the '96 Revolution or the Phil-Am War or the American occupation or even the collaborators. Come to think of it, wasn't it decided that aside from some unknowns there weren't any collaborators at all?

We should keep our history alive for the generations who will come after us, yet what we seem to be doing is trying our darndest to forget it. So what exactly is the Filipino supposed to be proud of at this point? What will make him rally around the flag?

Right now we're trembling in our collective boots because Japan wants to reduce the number of "Japayukis" (isn't that what they call our so-called entertainers?). Even the secretary of foreign affairs had to step in, fly to Japan and I'm sure beg the Japanese on bended knees not to cut off future foreign remittances that we expect to bolster a moribund economy. And this small band of brothers expects the government to remember Japanese atrocities? Get real.

Last Monday was the local premier of a riveting movie, "The Great Raid," based on, among other accounts, Hampton Sides' "Ghost Soldiers" (referring to American POWs) who were mostly survivors of the Bataan Death March. It deals with the rescue of 511 American POWs on Jan. 30, 1945 from a Japanese camp, notorious for its brutality since of the original 12,000 prisoners only 511 remained. (The healthier ones had been sent to Japan to work as slaves.)

It was a raid conducted by 121 soldiers handpicked from the US Army's 6th Ranger Battalion commanded by Henry Mucci and guerrillas under Juan Pajota (played by Cesar Montano) and Eduardo Joson. The guerrillas held Gabu Bridge, thus preventing Japanese reinforcements from crossing the river.

Today in Cabanatuan only six concrete blocks from the camp's water tower remain. A memorial was dedicated in 1982 with the names of those who died in the camp. In 2003 another memorial was dedicated to the US Army troopers who liberated the camp in 1945. Out of the 121 Rangers, there were two casualties. Two POWs didn't survive. But 21 Filipino guerrillas were killed in that raid.

Have you ever heard of Juan Pajota or Eduardo Joson and their men? Is anybody putting up anything in their honor 60 years after the event? Stupid question.

The generation of those who fought that war is dying. Their stories surely should be told. It is said that the most crucial duty imposed by war is never to forget. We obviously have never heard of the saying.

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

The prettiest girl

YOUNG BLOOD

Daphne Onque

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

WHAT if someone told you that you were the prettiest girl in the room? Would you flip your hair and bat your lashes till you drop? Or would you pretend you didn't hear anything at all?

It wasn't like that when I met Ed. In fact, he was head over heels in love with my best friend Karla, when I realized that he smelled good and he looked cool in his faded *maong*. He wasn't even my best friend, but we walked and rode home together and talked about our favorite music, our former lovers and, of course, the object of his affection, Karla.

I couldn't blame him for liking her. She's truly pretty after all. With her long black hair, her angelic face and everything, what guy could resist wishing she were his? That's why I told him he'd be crazy if he didn't tell her that.

He didn't know, though, that when we ended our long days with casual good-night's, my only real comfort was my poetry. Love unspoken, smiling behind the tears, blah blah—were my favorite themes.

Was I in love with him? I couldn't tell.

Serendipity didn't mean anything to me until Ed and I watched the movie with that title. It was about the usual: attached man meets attached woman, who happen to be enemies, then become friends and realize they're meant for each other. What made it more meaningful for me was when Ed reached for my hand and kept it warm until the end of the movie. You would have thought I was pretending to be Virgin Mary but I was quivering inside.

All sorts of questions kept cropping up: Should I pull my hand away? Will he kiss me? It's so cold! Is someone watching us? Is this just a brotherly gesture? What happens if I marry him? And the rest was history.

He didn't kiss me then, but he became my boyfriend a week after that. Suddenly, we didn't talk much about our favorite songs. We watched a dozen movies, though. We even watched "Collateral Damage" on Valentine's Day. Pathetic. We still ate out a lot. We loved to sit by a pond and feed the fish while we feasted on shawarma. I had so many great *kilig* moments with him that I almost forgot I couldn't compare with Karla.

I tried hard to deny my insecurities until I would catch him taking furtive glances at her, and then again, I'd have only my diary to witness my loneliness and self-pity.

Now who's the loser I'm supposed to be talking about? All the while I thought it was he. When we finally reached Splitsville, all I tried to remember were his flaws. I wouldn't even cry. I had many reasons not to.

I would look at old photos and wonder who those strangers were. Then, although it's hard to admit, I felt I was a loser, too.

Even after we parted ways, I thought I'd never learn to love myself again. I met a few guys, but I kept comparing them to him. I was looking for someone like him, yet he mustn't be like him. Impossible, I know. I wasn't even sure I was truly over him.

Then one day, I was riding a bus home. It was a two-hour trip with nothing for me to do but think, think, and think some more. I was wearing the gray cap Karla gave me few days earlier. I thought I looked beautiful—either because I looked like Christina Aguilera in that cap or because I couldn't forget Ed's text two nights ago. He was in love again. At that moment as the sun shone boldly on my face, I smiled.

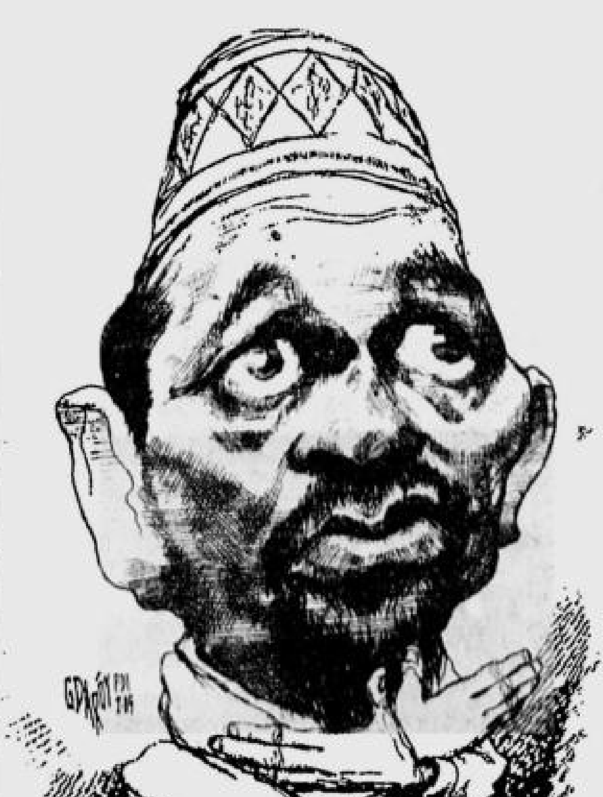
It's been a year since we broke up. I must have been crazy to fall for him. And I don't know if his new girl is crazier. Hmmm, perhaps she has long hair like Karla's. And bigger boobs. And eyes that sparkle every time he tells her, "I love you."

At that moment inside the bus, I'd never felt stronger as a woman. I was wrong when I measured my value as a person according to the amount of affection I got from him. More often than not, it turned out to be very frustrating and soul-drenching. I didn't know then that I had to be my own friend first.

So for the rest of the trip, I daydreamed about someone coming up to me and saying, "You're the prettiest girl around." And then maybe I would just flip my hair, cross my eyes, stick out my tongue and say, "Really?"

Daphne Onque, 25, is an English teacher at the Holy Spirit School in Tagbilaran.

IN THE NEWS



Nur Misuari

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LETTERS

Only noodles, sardines for the Filipino poor?

THE ASSURANCE of the senators and Malacañang that they will exempt instant noodles and other staple food of the poor from the value added tax will not stop the protests against the proposed 2 percentage-point VAT increase. The poor may be eating more instant noodles these days, but they still crave and deserve a healthy diet. Maybe their children can afford to eat only in *carenderias,* but they also yearn to visit their favorite fast-food chain as often as they could.

The members of Congress look down on the working class as perpetual patronizers of wet markets and *ukay-ukay*shops, which explains their claim that the poor will be unaffected by the VAT increase. They fail to see that the poor are also human beings with similar needs for clothing, education and leisure, all of which are covered by the VAT.

It is a natural instinct for man to desire an improved lifestyle, but it seems our legislators are bent on denying this urge because of their condescending belief that lower income groups only need instant noodles and sardines to survive the day. Such thinking explains the ubiquitous inequality in our society.

We want the poor to be responsible citizens who do not jaywalk, litter and multiply like rats, yet we do not treat them as equals when it comes to enjoying the bounties of our society or the pursuit of a more blissful life.

—RAYMOND PALATINO,
vice president,
Anak ng Bayan Youth Party,
32-A Visayas Ave.,
Galas, Quezon City

False reports increase risks to First Family

THE INQUIRER article entitled, "Do you need all these men, Mikey Arroyo?" (PDI, 2/9/05) by Nikko Dizon was brought to my attention and I would like to correct as many of the factual errors contained in it as I can.

First, there could not have been more than 30 PSG members to meet my brother's family because there are not that many assigned to his whole family. While I cannot specify the number of security personnel assigned to us as this just increases the risk to our security, I can state with certainty that my older brother's family did not have 30-plus PSG men meeting them at the airport. Second, my father does not request for security passes himself as it is the PSG that determines all the security arrangements.

Third, my security arrangements are not an exception to the rule for the rest of the family—that is, we children who are not in government—so it is ridiculous to say that my younger brother or my sisters-in-law have more security personnel assigned to them than I do.

What is fact is that my brothers, their families and I, as well as our parents, never request for more security personnel. What is fact is that we constantly request for fewer security personnel. What is fact is that, regardless of how we feel about having security personnel, we follow Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit, head of the Presidential Security Group, regarding security matters. It is the PSG that assesses the changing situation around our security and determines what is the best deployment for a particular day.

It is false and negative reports such as this that add to my older brother's security risk. I would encourage your reporters not to turn gossip into "well-placed sources" who, in this particular instance, may purport to be privy to airport security arrangements, but that is quite different from the security protocol of the PSG.

My brothers and I were brought up knowing the difficulties of the presidency and we view it as a position of responsibility and sacrifice, not one of perks and privileges. We have never abused any of the privileges or the courtesies extended to us.

—LULI M. ARROYO

MY source had evidence. Shown to me in particular were the proofs on the number of PSG men at the Centennial Airport for the arrival of Rep. Mikey Arroyo and his family last Monday. I had no reason to doubt their authenticity as well as the credibility of my source. I was also able to confirm that there were more than 30 PSG men at that time. As I had mentioned in my story, some of them were the First Gentleman's security.

—NIKKO DIZON,
PDI reporter

Far better than we think we are

RARELY do I read a column from the Philippines that shares my sentiment. There were times that I questioned myself whether I was being an elitist for advocating the idea that Filipinos can do better than wipe other people's asses as a nurse or caregiver.

I have nothing against such choices. What I have against is the idea perpetuated within the Philippines that we cannot aspire for anything better than to settle for something less than what we truly are capable of achieving in life. Given that choosing the road less taken is a far difficult path, but it is worth it.

To quote Conrado de Quiros, "What I have against is the attitude that we can only exist in survival mode and that we can't be better." (PDI, 1/31/05)

As a people we have so much to offer, but we cannot—must not—perpetuate the ethos of being defeatists. We must cease from selling ourselves short. We are far better than we give ourselves credit for.

—LYRA PORRAS GARZON,
lpg2101@columbia.edu

Probe on Senate guards in dog-killing spree ongoing

THIS is in reference to a news item regarding the alleged shooting of stray dogs within the perimeter of the Senate. (PDI, 2/3/05)

We would like to inform the INQUIRER that the Office of the Sergeant-At-Arms (OSAA) is currently conducting a thorough investigation on the matter. We have directed the Senate personnel and the PNP-SAF assigned to the Senate to report on the incident, as well as invite witnesses thereto.

The news referred to is still baseless and unsubstantiated because the investigation has not yet reached a conclusion that pinpoints the perpetrators of the alleged shooting. The report mentioned the word "Senate guards." Was the reporter referring to the Senate Legislative Security Guards or the PNP-SAF, an augmentation unit for the Senate's external security?

This is a very sensitive issue which involves the alleged abuse of animals, not to mention the probable violation of Republic Act 8485 or the Animal Welfare Act. Most importantly, the incident happened within the premises of an institution that has long been respected and honored. We, in the OSAA, the security tasked to protect the Senate in its entirety, know very well the gravity of the issue we are faced with. We will do our very best to arrive at the truth immediately.

In the meantime, may we request that news should not see print until facts have been confirmed. The OSAA will submit an investigation report as soon as it becomes available.

—MAJ. GEN. JOSE
V. BALAJADIA JR., AFP (ret.),
Office of the Sergeant-At-Arms,
Senate, Pasay City

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Why piracy flourishes

PIRATED DVDs being readied for destruction PDI PHOTO

PIRACY is stealing. It's as simple as that. No gray areas there. Nothing negotiable either. Its meaning is as understandable as a "stop sign." But why does film piracy flourish in the Philippines?

There have been uncountable raids on manufacturers and dealers of pirated VCDs, DVDs and even computer software. Still, you can buy these items as easy as buying grocery items. For P80, you can watch a roadshow film in your home—in full color with THX or Dolby sound. They are everywhere! Every major city here in Metro Manila has a known place where you can buy them at dirt cheap prices.

I believe that for as long as there is a demand for these products, there will be a supply for them; more so, considering the current financial nightmare most of us are in.

Let's get down to the basics. How much is the minimum wage? About P280. From that, a minimum wage worker will take home about P1,700 or less every week, exclusive of the SSS, medicare and other deductions from his pay. So if a minimum wage worker wants to bring his family (let's assume there are four of them all together) to a movie at a cost of P100 per head, he would have to spend P400. This excludes transportation expenses, food, etc. So for a family like his, it would cost no less than P700 to watch a movie, eat and enjoy together in a mall—almost equivalent to his three-day earnings. The question: Is he willing to spend that amount?

So unless we find a way to enable families like them to enjoy a bit of luxury and quality family time, people will look for cheaper alternatives, of which a pirated film is one. And with the poor purchasing power of the peso, many of us will always find ways to enjoy life as we did years ago, even to the extent of buying illegal items just to get a bargain.

Why do we focus on the effect to solve the cause? Why don't we find a way to study the root of our problems and from there, implement measures that will benefit many—not just a few?

—NOEL CARPIO,
1 Molave St,
Ramax Subdivision, QC

Another cause of our traffic problem

I AM glad that INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz has taken some valuable space to discuss the traffic problems in MetroManila. As very few columnists cover the subject, I hope he continues to raise the issue.

Cruz pointed to the large volume of vehicles and weak enforcement of traffic laws as the main culprits. I believe the real cause of our traffic mess is none other than "zoning."

It seems to me that the city and local governments in Metro Manila have not paid much attention to zoning. A city or town needs to be planned and this is something that is sorely lacking everywhere.

Wherever you drive, you will see commercial establishments lining up the main road, while a few meters away residential areas are spiced up with factories and warehouses. Add a school or college to the mix and you have the formula for traffic in chaos.

Just look at Ortigas Avenue in San Juan, or Commonwealth in Quezon City, or C. Raymundo in Pasig City.

Is it still possible to solve this problem? I am sure we can all cure this malady once and for all if we really want to.

—JET REVILLA,
jetrevilla@yahoo.com

Love defined

HIGH BLOOD

Raymunda P. Ortega

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

HEY, this 73-year-old grandma dares to talk and write about love! It's Valentine season, so what else is there to think about?

It doesn't matter whether you're 7, 17, 27, 57 or 73—it's love that makes the world go round, *di ba*? And I believe that we who have lived a full lifetime have more to say on this subject.

To someone who is more than seven decades old like me, the meaning and essence of love may differ from those half my age or younger. May I share my own concept of love.

Lust is not love. When a boy and a girl meet for the first time and feel electricity between them, leading them to pursue their emotions, with the end in view of getting in bed together at the soonest possible time, that is not love. Although at the height of passion they may profess love for each other, that is just lust, pure and simple. They are just out to get the most from each other, to satisfy their physical needs, or to state it more bluntly, their animal instincts. They enter into such relationship and keep it up for as long as one derives satisfaction from the other, or profits from the affair materially, financially or some other way. Once satisfied, and after a time, when difficulties and problems confront the so-called lovers, they grow bitter and see each other in a different light. Their eyes are opened and they begin to realize the error they have committed.

By then, it may be too late for one or the other or both of them. They may still continue with their liaison, though unwillingly, out of necessity in order to save face. Or, they may decide to part ways like total strangers, and seek better partners elsewhere.

In a relationship based on lust alone, there is no loyalty or commitment whatsoever, and no intention to make the partnership respectable, permanent or holy by entering into the sacrament of matrimony.

Love is coupled with respect. No one can profess love for one whom he or she does not respect. The attraction may be there, but again that is just physical and has nothing to do with love. The married man who lusts for other women does not truly love or respect his wife. He cares not whether she is hurt or humiliated by his actions. He bothers not with the consequences of his liaisons. In his hierarchy of values, the feelings of his wife and family are way below his own self-interest and his self-satisfaction.

Likewise, his protestations of love for the other woman are nothing but hollow, selfish declarations. He respects her not, otherwise, he would have considered her reputation which he has destroyed. For him, the only love he knows is what he feels for himself. He does not truly care for others, he loves only himself.

True love endures and lasts for a lifetime. Come hell or high water, come trials and tribulations, come failures and shortcomings, the man and woman, mature and responsible, truly in love and united in the holy sacrament of marriage remain steadfast and strong through the years of childbearing and caring for their family. It matters not that his hair has totally disappeared from his head; it matters not that her waistline has almost doubled its size from the day they first met each other; the couple blessed by God's love continue to hold on to each other even after their children have grown up.

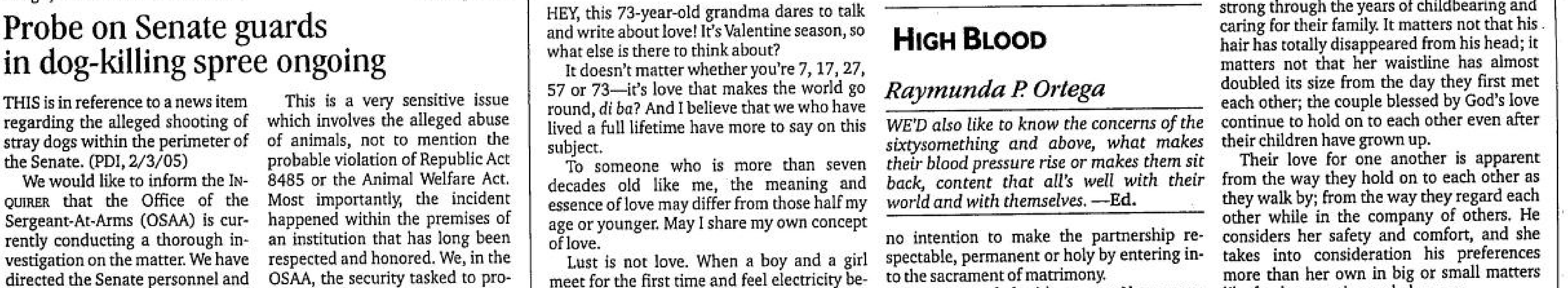
Their love for one another is apparent from the way they hold on to each other as they walk by; from the way they regard each other while in the company of others. He considers her safety and comfort, and she takes into consideration his preferences more than her own in big or small matters like food, recreation and pleasure.

True love forgets self for love of others. Be it conjugal, passionate love between a man and a woman, or filial love between parents and children and among siblings, this is the love that emanates from God Himself. This is the love that God gives us. He gave us His only Son, did He not?

For those who are imbued with this kind of love, life is beautiful. We find fulfillment and joy when we share our bounty with others; when we see the goodness and image of God in our fellowmen; and when we are at peace with ourselves and with everyone around us.

The Holy Spirit of love that dwells within us enables us to forget and forego our own comfort and pleasure and to sacrifice ourselves for others.

Raymunda P. Ortega, 73, worked as a court stenographer prior to retirement in 1997. She is enjoying retirement life with her husband Piping, nine grown-up children and their spouses, 12 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.



Tataba ang puso at lalaki ang mata
sa dami ng makikita sa Chinese New Year at Valentine's Day events ng Greenhills Shopping Center!
Lucky in Love Feng Shui Seminar Feb 8
(Morning of Feb 8 at the Jewellery)
Dragon and Lion Dance
(Afternoon of Feb 9 around the shopping center)
Night market Street Party Dating Game Feb 11
(7pm at Connecticut Carpark)
New Year Fashion Blast Feb 12
Free Gifts to Shoppers
(free roses at The Jewellery and ice cream at The Shops) Feb 13-14
GREENHILLS

Kung Hei Fat Choy at Happy Valentine's! Mula Feb. 09 to 14, bata o matanda, Chinese man o Pinoy, magpipiyesta sa dami ng makikita sa GSC! One-to-sawa na ang affordable shopping items na puwedeng mapamili, may dagdag attractions pa mula araw hanggang gabi.

Magmadali, punta na sa GSC at maki-celebrate ng Chinese New Year at Valentine's with the family!

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Across the NATION

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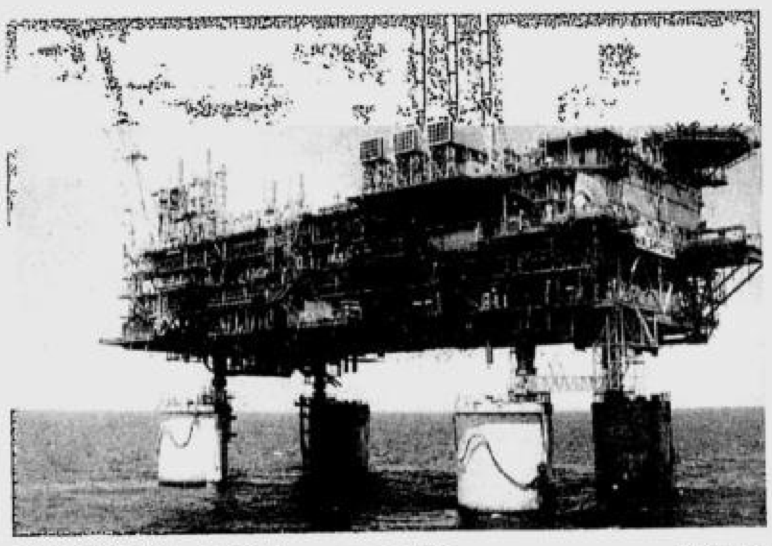
Deal signed on ₱3.7B Palawan gas fund share

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—In a plan to securitize the government share from the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas to Power Project, the national government has agreed to give Palawan P3.7 billion in the form of projects despite a pending court case.



A PLATFORM in the Malampaya gas field

PDI PHOTO

Gov. Joel Reyes announced yesterday that he struck a win-win solution to the long-drawn negotiations with the national government.

Last Feb. 8, at around 9 p.m., he said the interim agreement was signed by Secretaries Vince Perez (Energy), Juanita Amatong (Finance) and Acting Budget Secretary Mario Relampagos on behalf of the national government.

Relampagos signed in lieu of Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin who is on leave for health reasons.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was not a signatory but she issued on Feb. 7 full powers granting the three secretaries to negotiate with Palawan on its supposed shares in the Malampaya Project, Reyes said.

The interim agreement contained provisions on the use of the amount representing the province's shares from 2002 until 2004.

Share of wealth

The shares for the succeeding years have yet to be determined.

The Malampaya started operating in 2002.

Under the Local Government Code, a local government unit is entitled to receive 40 percent of the share from the national wealth but Reyes said the amount given was only half of the 40 percent because there is a pending court litigation.

He said the amount was taken from the LGU share which has been put in a trust fund.

"We sued them yet we are given our share," Reyes said.

The interim agreement also included projects to be prioritized such as development of infrastructure projects that will uplift the socio-economic status of Palaweños; protection and conservation of the environment; electrification of municipalities and barangays and establishment of facilities to enhance the security of the country's exclusive economic zone.

Reyes said the funds will be transferred based on the projects submitted for appropriation and the provincial government will directly liquidate with the Department of Energy.

Rushed

He admitted that the signing was fast-tracked because the three Cabinet members are due to leave their posts soon.

"If Secretaries Perez and Amatong left their respective posts without signing the interim agreement, we will go back to square one because we are not sure if the secretaries who will replace them are amenable to it," Reyes said.

Besides, Reyes said, the next secretaries may not be too privy to the clamor of Palawan to get its share.

Reyes said the agreement was reached after a series of negotiations with the national government that started last September.

However, the case to settle the territorial jurisdiction of Malampaya will still go on.

"This is the best solution for Palawan while we continue our fight to claim our shares in court," he said.

$2.1 billion

The provincial government, in a petition for declaratory relief in 2003, asked the court to recognize the provisions of Administrative Order 381 issued by former President Fidel Ramos that stipulated that Palawan's projected earnings will be around $2.1 billion in 20 years from 2002. AO 381 recognized the right of Palawan to shares in Malampaya.

The national government, during Ms Arroyo's administration, however maintains that Malampaya is beyond Palawan's territorial jurisdiction, hence, the province gets nothing from the gas revenues.

"The national government needs the money, we also need the money. This is without prejudice to our petition for declaratory relief," Reyes said.

Reyes also showed a Department of Justice opinion on the legality of the agreement.

If the court decides that Malampaya is not within the territorial jurisdiction of Palawan, the amount would be considered as a financial assistance to the province.

"The court will act independently on the cases filed," Reyes said. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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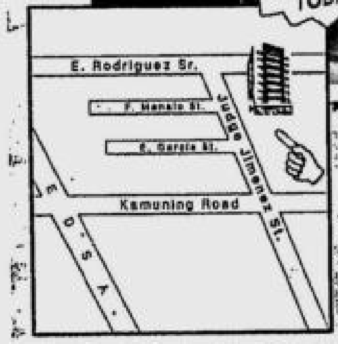

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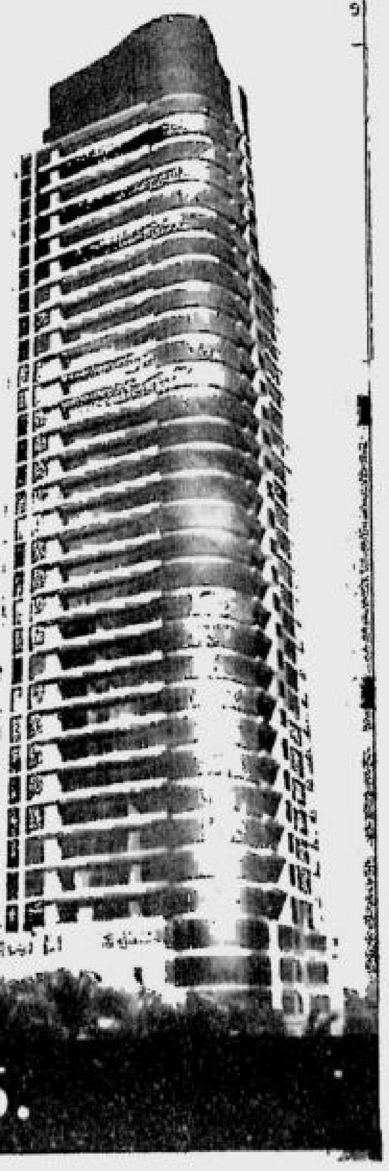

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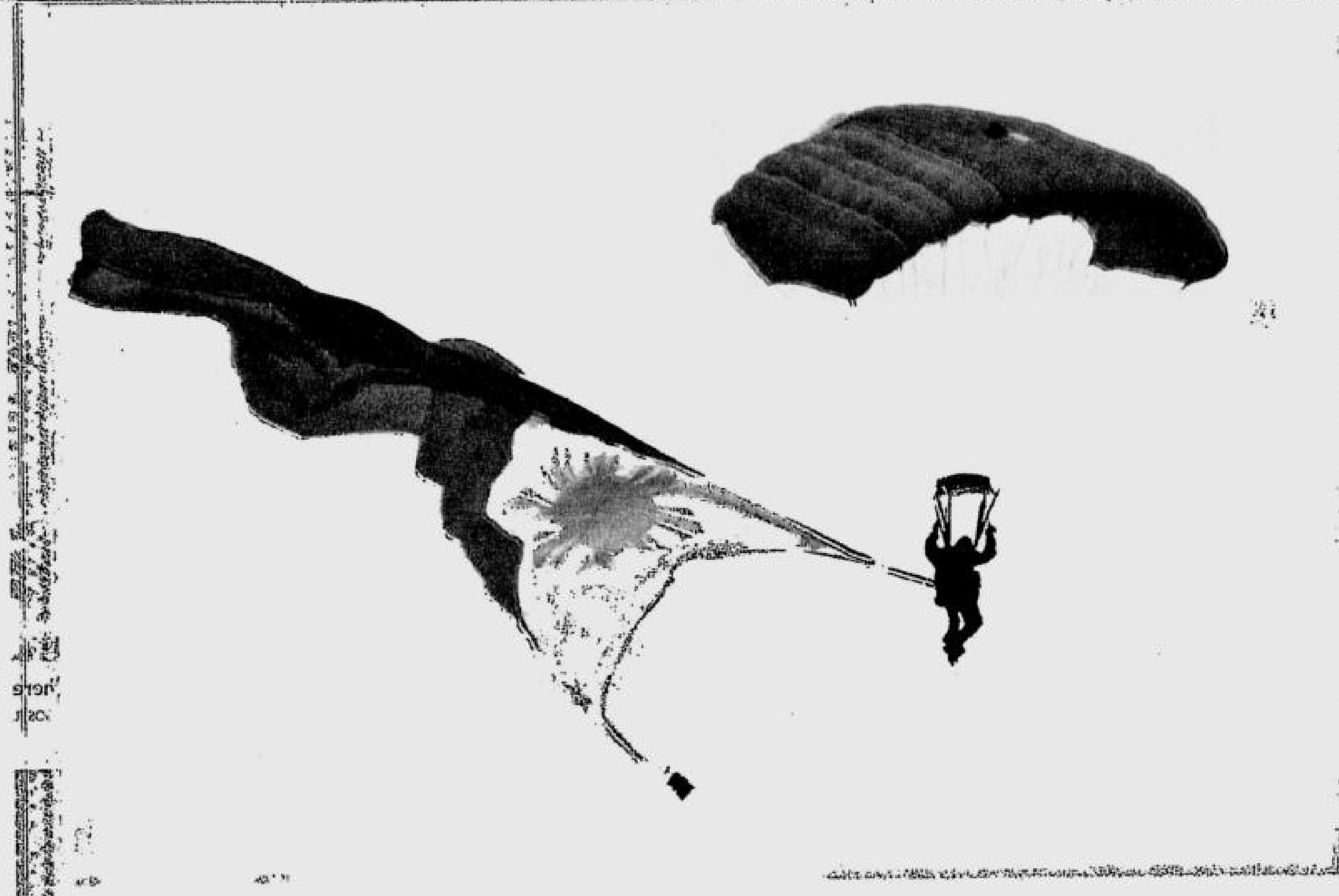


BALLOON FEAST JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Clark Air Base explodes in colors as hot air balloons are brought into the former US air force base in an annual festival that seeks to promote tourism not only in Clark but also in other destinations in Central Luzon.

East Samar governor says mining welcome, but ecology priority

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone called for "responsible mining" in the wake of the expected entry of big time mining firms on Samar Island.

Evardone expressed reservation over the opening up of the mining industry to investors saying a balance must be reached between generating income with that of preserving the environment.

Evardone said that while there was no doubt that the mining industry would "liberate" the country, to include his province, from poverty, the possibility of the destruction of the environment was "not remote."

"I am not against mining per se. I am for responsible mining," Evardone said.

Eastern Samar is one of the country's richest provinces in terms of mineral resources. However, the province remains to be one of the country's most depressed regions.

Based on the data of the Mineral and Geosciences Bureau in Eastern Visayas, Eastern Samar has a rich deposit of bauxite, chromite, copper, nickel, gold and silver.

Bauxite, commonly called as aluminum ore, has a wide range of common uses. Lightweight and strong, many kitchen items (pots and pans, foil, dishes) are made of aluminum. Most materials used for transportation—cars, trucks, boats, aircraft, and aircraft engines—also use large amounts of aluminum. Chromite, on the other hand, has a wide range of industrial uses, mainly as a refractory component in bricks and linings of blast furnaces.

The opening of the country's mining industry was given a stamp of approval by the Supreme Court when it upheld the legality of the Mining Act of 1995.

"We will be vigilant. I will not compromise any degradation of the environment in the name of economic prosperity," said Evardone.

ROUNDUP

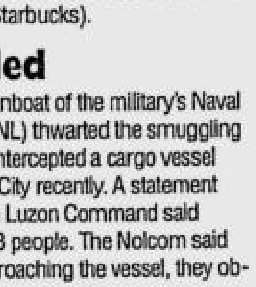
Wheelchairs in Mindanao

THE UNITED States Agency for International Development supported the project of Handicap International-Wheelchairs in Mindanao for War Victims and Persons with Disability, that was launched Feb. 3 at the Phividec Industrial Estate in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental. Two buildings were inaugurated—the Wheelchair Production Center and the Orthopedic Workshop, according to a news release. Benjamin Gobin, HI program director, said the production center will manufacture 25 units of wheelchairs in a month. More than 3,000 persons with disability will benefit from the project in four years. HI is a non-government international solidarity organization based in Lyons, France.

Law books donated

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Worldwide Fund for Nature Foundation Philippines donated a set of law books to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to help the agency's lawyers pursue charges against environmental law offenders. Antonio Principe, DENR Cagayan Valley director, said the donation included software and a compilation of environmental cases. He said the WWF is also helping the DENR build a station in Maconacon, Isabela to stop illegal logging in the area.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

'Tipanan' in Tagaytay



STUDENTS of the Center for Spiritual Learning (CSL) in Tagaytay will hold Virtuescope readings for free, to celebrate the city fiesta on Sunday. "Virtuescope" is horoscope reading with a twist. Instead of merely finding out what the future holds, Virtuescope arms the seeker with all the tools that he or she needs to deal with forthcoming events. The readings are part of the center's parallel "spiritual fiesta" dubbed "Tipanan." Games, face-painting, video showing, basic meditation and positive thinking exercises for both children and adults are part of the spiritual fiesta. Guests will be treated to vegetarian snacks. Activities start at 9 a.m. and wind up at 4 p.m. The public is invited. No entrance fees will be charged. CSL is at 1020 Magallanes Drive (across Starbucks).

Smuggling foiled

TARLAC CITY—A patrol gunboat of the military's Naval Forces Northern Luzon (NFNL) thwarted the smuggling of 54 motorcycles when it intercepted a cargo vessel west off Deli Point in Vigan City recently. A statement from the military's Northern Luzon Command said NFNL personnel arrested 18 people. The Nolcom said while the soldiers were approaching the vessel, they observed through radar that three motorboats were speeding away from the vessel. The soldiers pursued the boats and arrested the suspects. Reports said some suspects threw several motorcycles into the water when they saw the soldiers. *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bus loses brake, hurts 47

BALANGA CITY—Forty-seven people were hurt on Sunday when their mini-bus lost its brake and hit a big rock in Mariveles town. Most of them suffered bruises, cuts and broken bones and were taken to a nearby hospital. Police said the bus was traveling on a zigzag road from Balanga City when the accident occurred. Police said they were checking reports that the bus driver and conductor were drunk at the time.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

DENR office in Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has put up its sub-office in Alfonso Castañeda town following reports of rampant cutting and transport of narra flitches within the Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP). Roberto Apigo, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the creation of a sub-office is part of the national government's effort to intensify its campaign against illegal logging. Some members of the Bugkalot tribe in the villages of Abaca, Lipuga, Pelaway and Cawayan in Alfonso Castañeda resorted to cutting and transporting narra flitches due to lack of livelihood opportunities. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

Suspect in judge's killing out on bail

POLICE in Tanauan City, Batangas arrested one of the principal suspects in the killing of Tanauan regional trial court Judge Voltaire Rosales in a raid early yesterday.

The raiding team killed the suspect's companion during the operation.

Supt. Renato Angara, Tanauan police chief, identified the arrested suspect as Aldrin Galicia, a resident of Barangay Wawa and an alleged leader of the Galicia-Tolentino syndicate.

He said Galicia was arrested following the issuance of a warrant of arrest by Tanauan court Judge Arcadio Manigbas for the June 10 killing of Rosales.

Witnesses pointed to Galicia as the driver of the motorcycle that alleged gunman, Jonathan Encarnacion, used in fleeing after the murder of Rosales, a judge known for his convictions of drug suspects in Batangas.

Angara said they first swooped down on the alleged safehouse of the gang's members when a certain Rogelio Almendares, 47, came out of the house and tried to lob a hand grenade at the arresting lawmen.

Forced to shoot

He said the police were forced to shoot Almendares who later died of gunshot wounds while being rushed to a nearby hospital.

Angara said they received information that Galicia was actually in another house adjacent to the first one that they raided.

"When we went inside the house, we found that Galicia was actually staying in another house which is some 300 meters away. So we immediately went to the place and found the suspect there," Angara told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

He said Galicia's wife and grandmother, who were with him during the raid, refused to let the policemen serve the warrant for Galicia.

"*Sabi nung lola nung* suspect, *hindi sila marunong magbasa* (The suspect's grandmother said she doesn't know how to read). They want us to call the barangay captain first," he said.

After a 30-minute negotiation, the suspect turned himself in to the authorities.

Galicia was earlier arrested on Sept. 8, during a clash with police and members of the Task Force Rosales of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Although he was suspected to be involved in the killing of Rosales, police only filed charges for illegal possession of firearms against him.

Illegal possession

He was later released after posting bail.

"With Galicia's arrest, the killing of Rosales may now be considered as case closed," Angara said.

Senior Supt. Francisco Don Montenegro, Batangas police provincial director, said they are taking Galicia to Camp Crame.

Rosales was the fourth judge slain in the second week of June last year.

Rosales, who was then the judge of the Tanauan Regional Trial Court Branch 83, was on his way home to Makati after a hearing in court when he was killed. *Marlon Ramos and Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

10 robbery gang suspects fall as police foil bank heist

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Police foiled a robbery on a Banco de Oro branch at the SM City Pampanga here on Wednesday after they arrested 10 suspects reportedly belonging to a robbery gang operating in Metro Manila.

Insp. Ermar Ortiz, one of those who led the police's Special Action Force unit in the operations here, said the suspects as well as their leader, Roy Gilbert Colangco, were trapped as they moved in to surround the bank's armored van at past 2 p.m.

Ortiz said his unit planted a decoy bag supposedly containing the bank's deposits that morning. He said the heist was aborted through the cooperation of bank officials.

According to Ortiz, the suspects had positioned themselves at the mall's west wing as early as 9 a.m. By that time, he said, the SAF agents were ready for the operation.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, Pampanga police director, said the group's members were suspects in the killing of five security guards in Banco de Oro branches in Las Piñas, Novaliches and SM North Edsa in Metro Manila last year.

Aside from Colangco, the other suspects were identified as Michael Damolo, Edgar Ybañez, Rey Nuquiao, Leonardo Tabusan, Christine Bongolan, Edwin Ayup, Dolphy Cosioco and Jeanne Calonod. The last suspect, a woman, refused to give her name to policemen.

Officials at the regional police headquarters in Camp Olivas, some 5 km north of the mall, took custody of the suspects.

Ortiz said five M-16 rifles, six M-14 rifles, two .45 cal. pistols and 52 magazines were recovered from the suspects.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Areglo' works for NGOs in putting stop to Pangasinan illegal fishing

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—The term *areglo* (settlement) suggests corruption, but for people's organizations manning fish sanctuaries in Anda and Bolinao towns, it seems to be the better alternative to bringing illegal fishers to court.

"Often viewed as negative as it connotes graft and corruption, the practice of *areglo* sometimes takes on a different light when used by POs. Instead of immediately [suing] violators, most PO law enforcers convince them that what they are doing or about to do is illegal," according to a report by Paolo Pagaduan of the University of the Philippines Social Action Research and Development Foundation.

Pagaduan presented the report during the third inter-local government units' symposium on marine protected area management here last week. The symposium was organized by the Sagip Lingayen Gulf Foundation, also a UP-based non-government organization.

The report was based on the experiences of POs in the island town of Anda where five marine protected areas (MPAs) covering about 100 hectares have been established.

Quoting POs and other law enforcers, Pagaduan said dozens of fishery law violators have been caught in Anda since 1999 when the MPAs were set up.

"Only three [cases] have been filed in court, two of which were dismissed because of technicalities. One [violator] was convicted and paid a hefty fine of P2,500," he said.

Warnings

Pagaduan said most violators were only given warnings.

"Some cases referred to the LGU (local government unit) and the local police appear to have been settled or *naareglo* without the knowledge of the PO law enforcers who [arrested] them. Most were settled through intermediaries or *ninongs*. The POs also refer to this practice as *naareglo* or settled. Amazingly, all records of apprehensions made seem to disappear along with the [pieces of] evidence, like the boat used, when the *ninongs* intervene," he said.

But when the POs practice *areglo*, it becomes a different story altogether, Pagaduan said.

"Here, law enforcement not only takes the role of penalizing violators but also plays a role in educating [them]. The action, which is often termed as *pakiusap* (plea or request), often stops the violator from engaging in the illegal activity," Pagaduan said.

In Bolinao, Jessem Gabatin, chair of the Samahan ng Mangingisda at Mamamayan ng Balingasay (Sammabal), which established a fish sanctuary in the town, agreed that talking to illegal fishers was the better option.

Lessons

He said when the fish sanctuary was started, non-members of the Sammabal tried to enter the area and use illegal means to catch fish.

"We told them that the sanctuary would benefit them, too, and they listened. Only one entered the sanctuary again, but only because he did not see the buoy as it was nighttime. Now, all Balingasay residents protect the sanctuary," Gabatin said.

In Anda, fishing through the use of explosives seemed to have stopped.

Residents said *areglo*, "PO style," might have played a big role in the reduction of cases of illegal fishing.

Pagaduan said *areglo* also "lessens the chance of retaliation from the violators to the POs' law enforcers."

COOL TRADE ALNOE PALER/CON

A vendor parks his ice cream cart near the shrine of the Magellan Cross in Cebu City under the shades of palm trees.

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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INQUIRER Visayas

Evelio death remembered

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
San Jose, Antique

PILAR Salgado, 47, lit a vigil candle and offered a silent prayer inside the bullet-ridden bathroom at the back of a rice store.

Every Feb. 11 at around 9:45 a.m. for the past 19 years, she returns to this place where gunmen finished off former Antique Gov. Evelio Javier.

Yesterday, she had doubts on going there again because the Antique Regional Trial Court already decided on Javier's murder case last Oct. 12.

"But I could not stop. Something seems to be urging me to come here again," she told the INQUIRER.

She said she does not know when she would finally stop her yearly ritual. "I believe the mastermind [in Javier's killing] is still free."

Salgado is among the many Antiqueños who after 19 years remember the pain of Javier's death and continue to search for justice.

Leon Pe, 76, was standing in front of his rice store after he heard gunshots from the public plaza 200 meters away when the wounded Javier rushed inside his store shouting: "Close the door, Leon. Close the door!"

But before Pe could comply, a heavily armed man wearing a bonnet entered the store and fired at the bathroom where Javier sought refuge.

Pe said his family has decided not to cover the bullet holes of the bathroom as a reminder of Javier's death. Every year, like Salgado, they also light a candle inside the bathroom.

Javier's death anniversary, a non-working holiday on Panay Island, was commemorated with Masses in the capital town of San Jose in Antique and at the Ateneo University.

This was the first commemoration after the Antique Regional Trial Court Branch 12 acquitted former assemblyman Arturo Pacificador, tagged as the mastermind, and three others for Javier's murder.

The court, however, convicted lawyer Avelino Javellana and seven others, mostly security men of the former assemblyman, guilty and sentenced them to a minimum of 20 years to a maximum of 40 years in jail.

Javellana and five others convicted in the case were transferred to the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa last week. Pacificador has gone back to practicing law and has not ruled out running in the next elections.

Javier's family and supporters are still coming to terms with the court decision.

"Evelio may have been mercilessly taken away from us, the court decision painfully unjust, but the love and support of dear friends, and the peace that comes with acquiescence to God's will bring us comfort and healing," Javier's widow Precious, said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

Javier's younger brother, Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, said the "denial of justice" by the court probably meant that his brother will not get justice in the "material world."

"What he wanted was to give justice to his dreams, to give our children the opportunity to reach the impossible dream," the congressman said.

But he said he has asked Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to re-file an extradition petition against Pacificador's son, Rodolfo, before the Canadian government. He said the court decision showed that the younger Pacificador was the mastermind of his brother's murder.

Rodolfo is applying for refugee status in Canada, where he fled after the killing. The Philippine government filed a petition before the Canadian courts for his extradition, but the Ontario Court of Appeals and subsequently the Canadian Supreme Court dismissed the petition.

Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez said the province's Historical Council is planning to put up a museum in Javier's honor. A musical on the slain governor's life is also in the works.

These, she said, will help remind the younger generations that Antique has offered a "precious leader" in the fight for freedom.

FLOWERS from Antiqueños adorn Javier's monument at the spot where he was shot in the San Jose public plaza on Feb. 11, 1986. NESTOR BURGOS JR.

KUNG Hei Fat Choi. Some Ilonggos had a perfect view of the Chinese New Year celebration from the balcony of a commercial building along Iznart Street in Iloilo City.
PHOTOS BY TARA KATHERINE YAP/CONTRIBUTOR

Ilonggos, Chinoys mark new year

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

IT WAS a show of "reciprocal affection" that brought together the Chinese-Filipinos and Ilonggos in Iloilo, culminating in a revelry that ushered in the Chinese New Year on Tuesday.

"We have long considered Iloilo our home and we are most grateful for the reciprocal affection that we have been receiving from everybody in this place," said Henry Chusuey, chair of the Iloilo Chinese Filipino Cultural Foundation Inc. and president of the Federation of Chinese-Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Panay Inc.

He said the Chinese community was hoping and praying "that a symbiotic existence would prevail" among the Ilonggos and the Chinese-Filipinos living in Iloilo.

"Largely considered a more affluent social grouping, we endeavor to extend our humble contributions to our community. We share the same burdens, responsibilities and obligations to our community that we can't turn our backs from," said Chusuey, who owns Golden Finance Corp. and Boracay Regency.

THIS girl came to celebrate the Chinese New Year in downtown Iloilo City.

Felipe Uygongco, president of the Fil-Chinese Chamber of Commerce Iloilo Inc., had earlier said that the Chinese community was thankful to the city government for initiating the public celebration of the Chinese lunar year in 2003.

Lantern-lined and stall-dotted Iznart Street, the hub of the Chinese-Filipino business community, was closed to traffic on Tuesday. Chinese and Ilonggos gathered to watch the parade and program that started at 4 p.m. and ended at 8:30 p.m. after the thrilling 20-minute fireworks display.

The merrymaking, however, continued until midnight with a concert and wushusansho tournament entertaining revelers.

Mayor Jerry Treñas was just as lavish with his praises for the Iloilo Chinese community.

Iloilo City, he said, "is very glad with the cooperation that the Chinese community has been extending." The community has "widely contributed to the development of Iloilo by being one of the biggest employers of the Ilonggos."

"The Chinese businessmen have positively revolutionized trade and commerce in these parts and have influenced the manner of how Ilonggos conduct business especially in the areas of attitudes and values," said Treñas.

Touted as the "most elaborate and festive Chinese New Year celebration" in this part of the country, the third year of the festivities did not fail public expectations with its parade of a huge synthetic rooster, many dragon and lion dances, and other cultural presentations.

The city is the only place outside Manila's Binondo District that publicly celebrates the Chinese New Year in grand style.

The audience applauded the young children and teenagers who performed 11 traditional Chinese cultural pieces that most Ilonggos have never seen before, such as the "Traditional Chinese Wedding Procession," "Let's Celebrate" and "The Girls of Ali-san."

"The [Chinese] culture is already there, but it is confined in schools and family associations but we are now showing our rich culture with the bigger Iloilo community so that there would be greater appreciation and understanding of Chinese culture," said Rev. Fr. Manny Uy, one of the organizers.

"We hope that through this presentation, we could restore the age-old Confucian values of our ancestors which include frugality, hard work, integrity, respect for elders and authority, the willingness to work together and social harmony," said Felipe Uygongco, also the vice chair of the Iloilo Chinese Filipino Cultural Foundation Inc.

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Running priest takes on cause of convicts in Chiong case

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Saying he was convinced about the innocence of death convict Francisco Juan "Paco" Larrañaga and the six others convicted in the Chiong sister rape-murder case, "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes ran through the major thoroughfares of this city yesterday to call attention to their case.

Reyes said he also ran for the Chiong family so that "real justice" for their daughters would be finally served.

After his run, Reyes told reporters here that he believed that there should be a re-trial of the case. He said he was also asking for the "interference of the spirit" of the late Judge Martin Ocampo to revisit the conscience of the justices of the Supreme Court so that it would reverse their earlier decision imposing the death penalty on Larrañaga and his six co-accused, collectively known as the Chiong Seven.

No fun run

Reyes, together with some 30 people including the parents, relatives, and friends of the convicts, wore green T-shirts marked "Justice for Paco" at the front and "Paco is innocent" at the back when they ran for two hours starting at 8 a.m. from Ayala Business Center toward the streets of Gorordo Avenue, General Maxilum Avenue, Fuente Osmeña going to the Palace of Justice.

The group stopped at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) Central Visayas headquarter where seven friends of Larrañaga handed their letter asking the police agency to conduct a re-investigation of the Chiong sisters' abduction, rape and murder.

The group also stopped at the Palace of Justice to give a manifesto asking the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) to "answer the call of the innocent and oppressed in finding the truth and justice."

Cause

After the run, the group, including Father Reyes and the seven friends of Larrañaga—Raymond Alvin Garcia, Sebastian Eriberto Seno, Paolo Manguerra, Francisco Carlos Jarque Jr., Ma. Christina del Gallego Borromeo, Jheanessa Ann Fonacier and Maharlika Esperanza Shulze—held a press conference at a restaurant in Ayala Business Center.

Reyes said it was not the first time that he ran to save innocent people from the death penalty, including the dozens of runs he did for the Abadilla Five.

METHANE-INDUCED

Fire rages for 2 weeks in Bacolod dump

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is sending experts to help the Bacolod City government put out a nearly two-week fire at its old dump at Barangay Mandalagan.

The city fire department has been unable to stop the fire in the dump because the garbage is heavily compacted and it has no equipment to loosen it, which is an option for reducing the fumes, said city fire chief Jerry Candido.

The Mandalagan dump, which covered one hectare and has wastes measuring 20 meters deep, was closed in January after a city-controlled dump was opened in Barangay Felisa.

The fire at the old dump started on Jan. 31. No one knew it started but former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun told the INQUIRER in an interview that compacted biodegradable waste creates methane gas, which, she said, could burn on its own even if no fire is started at the dump.

Dr. Jovy Vergara, assistant city health officer, said residents near the old dump have been suffering from flu, asthma, cough and running noses as a result of the fumes released by the fire.

GOZUN

"We have gone to the area to attend to their needs and left medicine at the barangay health center for them. Some residents have also complained of sleepless nights because of the odor from the fumes," he said.

Residents living near the area were asked by their barangay captain to transfer but they have refused to leave, he said.

Bacolod City Mayor Evelio Leonardia said he has created a task force composed of various agencies to stop the fire but he stressed that it was no ordinary fire.

"It is the result of years of dumping waste in Mandalagan that was not treated as a controlled dump," he said.

The mayor said that under two previous administrations, wastes brought to the dump were just piled on top of one another. He said he had tried to treat it as a controlled dump by having sand and gravel placed over the garbage, but apparently it was too late.

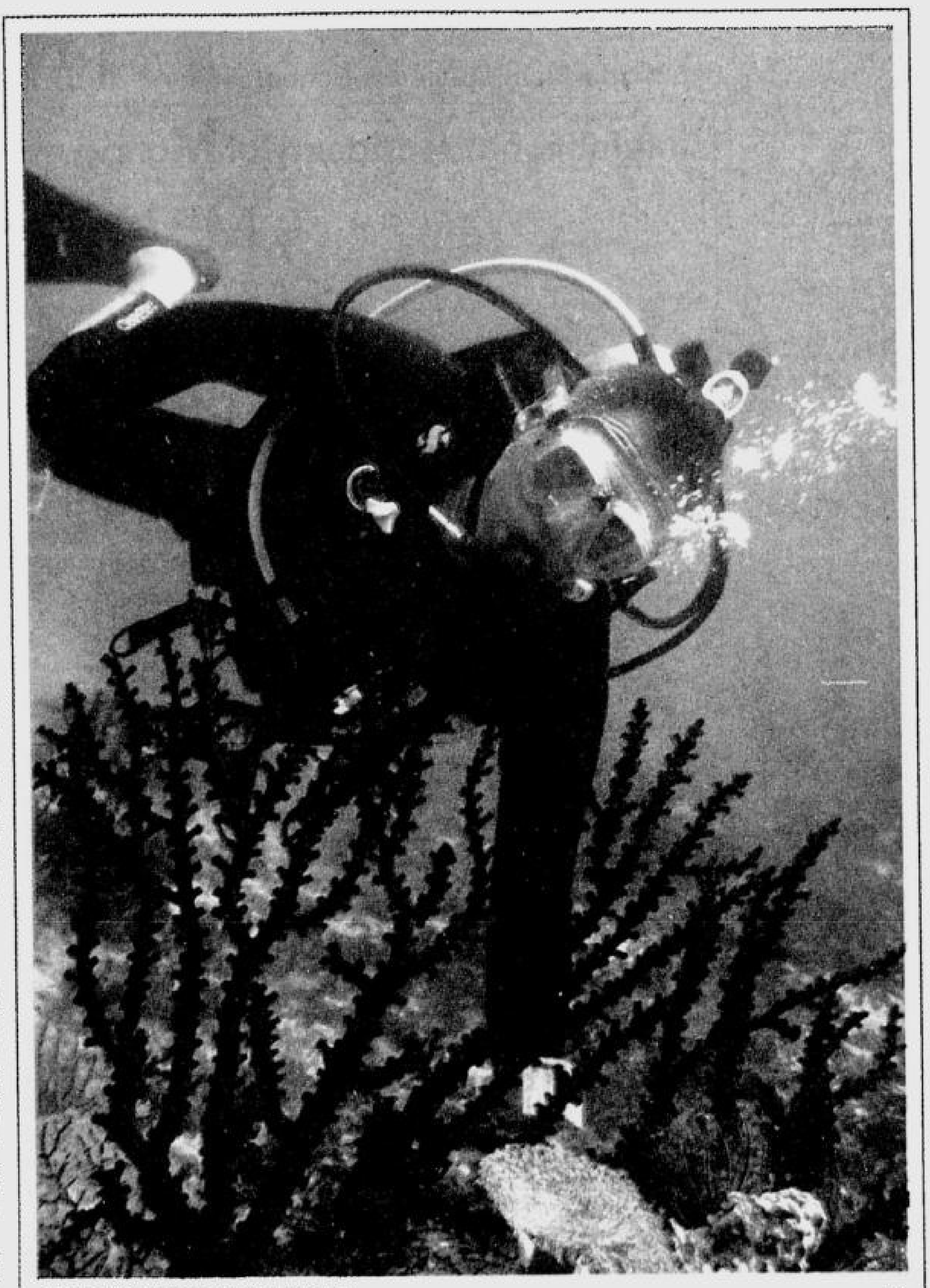
Gozun, meanwhile, stressed that pouring water into the dump would not solve the problem.

She said a solution similar to what was done at the Payatas dump in Manila could be adopted in Bacolod City. She said pipes could be put in the dump to allow fumes from below to be vented into the atmosphere as a temporary solution.

Soil cover could also help, she said, although she noted that because the garbage was very thick, methane gases below would have to be released.

She said the problem with methane gas is it will have a greenhouse effect on the atmosphere, and can cause illnesses.

Julian Amador, DENR Environmental Management Bureau director, said methane gas at the old dump could be recovered and could even be sold to interested firms. Methane gas is widely used to generate electric power.



UNDERWATER SPECTACLE
AFP
A tourist admires different kinds of fish and corals while diving in Panglao Island in Bohol. Diving is one of the activities that attract tourists to various destinations in the country.

Treasure hunter now hunted over digging

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—A treasure hunter is now hunted by the local authorities of Pilar, Capiz for abandoning the 25-meter pit he dug at a riverside area in the town.

Porferio Perez, barangay chair of Dulangan, said he was worried about the safety of the residents of Sitio Bari in Dulangan because the pit posed a grave danger to residents should water from the mountains flow to the excavation area.

Andres Leonor, who had identified himself as district coordinator of the Treasure Hunter Association of the Philippines Inc. (THAPI) and was responsible for the excavation, was nowhere to be found.

Perez was accompanied by personnel of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) to inspect the excavation site on Wednesday.

Perez said the backhoe used in the excavation was already parked at the cockpit of Dulangan. The equipment operator and other workers hired by Leonor have also abandoned the site. Water has started to fill up the pit, Perez said.

Dante Bermejo, Capiz provincial administrator, said the provincial legal officer was studying what case to file against Leonor.

Bermejo said Leonor might have decided to pull out the equipment and his workers from the excavation site after Dulangan officials complained about his activities.

Last Monday, a heated confrontation ensued between Dulangan barangay officials and Leonor at the excavation site and only the presence of policemen from the 1st Police Mobile Group pre-empted a bloody confrontation.

Leonor had claimed that the excavation activities had permission from landowner Rafael Santos II. He insisted there was no need to secure permits from the officials of Dulangan and Pilar because he had already permits from the landowner.

He, however, admitted that he has not obtained an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR.

Leonor showed to barangay officials and reporters a map and a piece of document from Santos that supposedly proved that the excavation site had hidden treasures left by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

Roxas City cops claim busting cell phone gang

ROXAS CITY—The Roxas City police office said it has busted a gang allegedly involved in a series of cellular phone thefts in the city.

Supt. Rene Aspera, Roxas police director, said four suspected snatchers were arrested on Monday mainly due to the cooperation of some concerned individuals.

He said robbery charges would be filed against the four, all teenagers who were believed to be members of a gang.

They were Ricky Santiago, 19, of Roxas City; Garry Cereneo, 18, of Sapian town; and two minors aged 16 and 17.

Last Monday, Cereneo and the 17-year-old were on board a motorcycle when they snatched the bag of Gilda Dolfo, a teacher of Filamer Christian College (FCC) who was on her way to school.

A tricycle driver was able to follow the suspects who went to a house on Premier de Mayo Street. The driver immediately informed the police of the suspects' whereabouts.

A team of policemen went to the house and arrested the suspects.

Santiago and the 16-year-old, who were also in the house, were brought to the police station after the police recovered several cell phones and bags containing some peso and dollar bills.

Dolfo went to the police station and positively identified Cereneo and the 17-year-old as the two who snatched her bag.

A few hours later, Nemia Almasol and Leah Perez went to the police station and identified two other suspects. *Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Ilocanos drop 'stinginess' to prepare for feast

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Talk about Ilocanos and stingy comes to mind. But Laoagueños were all but tightwad on Monday, the traditional holding of the Dulang Festival, feeding a swarm of crowd with every possible concoction of the ubiquitous *pancit* (noodle dish).

The annual food festival, a component of the month-long Laoag fiesta, pays tribute to homegrown cuisine and, in the process, generates wider patronage for native dishes among residents.

Chevylle Fariñas, city tourism council chair and wife of Mayor Michael Fariñas, said festival committees chose to promote *pancit* this year although the noodle dish found its beginnings from Chinese merchants.

"Like rice, *pancit* has become a staple among Ilocanos. Who doesn't like pancit? The economically-challenged Ilocano has found a gastronomic ally in this one-dish meal," Fariñas said.

The city government earlier planned to stage the biggest *empanada* as another festival highlight but decided to focus on the *pancit* instead.

At least two catering services prepared a 15-meter *pancit* roll wrapped in 400 pieces of homemade edible wrappers and had it displayed at the city basketball court on Monday. The roll stretched to both ends of the basketball court.

Mary Ang, festival organizer, said the city government did not plan to enter the longest *pancit* roll to the Guinness Book of World Records.

"We just tried to come up with an interesting *pancit* presentation for our festival crowd," Ang said.

Caterers took at least three hours to cook and prepare the roll, made of 100 kilos of native *pancit* noodles, 10 kilos of pork and 20 kilos of vegetables, for Monday's festival.

Baguio, Benguet line up feasts to bury scare on meningo

BAGUIO CITY—Like the changing of seasons, the city and nearby La Trinidad, Benguet, is coming out of the meningococcemia crisis with a splash of festivities this month.

Dr. Charles Cheng, a leader of the Chinese-Filipino community here, said the opening salvo would be the Chinese New Year celebration, which was marked by a colorful lion dance on Friday.

"This is very significant because the Chinese New Year is also known as the spring festival. After winter comes spring, the season of budding and new beginnings. The first basic step, when rightfully taken, will lead to a successful journey all year," Cheng said.

Tourism officials noted a sharp drop in tourist arrivals in the city following the scare brought about by incidents of meningococcemia, a fatal strain of meningitis, starting October last year.

Spring festival

But Baguio and La Trinidad are determined to boost the sagging tourism industry in the Cordillera by staging three major festivals starting with the spring festival.

The Baguio flower festival or Panagbenga will start on Feb. 14 while the Adivay agri-tourism festival in La Trinidad will open on Feb. 25.

Lawyer Damaso Bangaoet, who helped organize the flower festival, is now organizing the Adivay festival to showcase the "best of Benguet."

"Adivay is not meant to compete with the flower festival; the event is here to complement and support it. We are here to present more attractions and areas of interest when tourists come to the region," Bangaoet said in a forum on Wednesday.

With these major festivals, tourism officials said they were hoping to disperse more tourists in the Baguio-La Trinidad-Itogon-Sablan-Tuba (Blist) area.

Not happy

Mignon de Leon, Benguet tourism officer, said in the past five years, Benguet only posted a 5-percent share of tourist arrivals in the region.

But she said the province eventually attracted more tourists, prompting travel agents to offer tour packages that offered Benguet attractions.

"The festivity is meant to create a long-term partnership with Baguio. We are not happy with only 5 percent, we want to go for 5 to 10 percent of tourist arrivals," De Leon said.

Purificacion Molintas, regional director of the Department of Tourism, said Baguio has been in the forefront of the region's tourism industry and posted a 95-percent share of tourist arrivals in the past 10 years.

But Molintas said last year, tourist arrivals in other Cordillera provinces, such as Ifugao and Kalinga, increased from 5 to 25 percent.

Agri-tourism

The Adivay festival, according to its organizers, hopes to make Benguet an agri-tourism destination. The province's 1 towns would showcase their tourist spots, history and culture.

Also included in the activities in the Adivay festival is the indigenous horse race called "dumba."

Molintas said residents look forward to this event, which was last staged in 1992. *Desiree Caluza and Donna Demetillo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Escodas, Vicente Lim beheaded, Colayco shot

From page A1

in the Allied Intelligence Bureau.

Deprived of blood

They were first taken to the Chinese General Hospital and forcibly deprived of their blood for the benefit of the Japanese blood bank.

Like the Escodas, Gen. Vicente Lim's wife Pilar and children spent years looking for his remains but they never found the closure they sought.

The violence and bestiality of the end of World War II in Manila produced an estimated 100,000 victims, most of whom were civilians. Trapped by the returning US forces of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, some 16,000 Japanese military under the command of Adm. Sanji Iwabuchi of the Imperial Japanese Manila Naval Defense Force massacred scores of priests and nuns, bayoneted women and their children, tortured and shot dead the teachers, doctors and other professionals whom they rounded up.

Malate's elegant mansions

They bombarded and then set fire to the elegant mansions in Ermita and Malate, killing industrialists like the Rochas, the Reyeses and the Perez-Rubios. They mowed down with machine-gun fire mothers like Alicia Syquia Quirino and her young children Norma and Fe Angela. They sequestered doctors like the Gisberts and Lahozes before systematically killing them.

Although vicious fighting continued in other parts of the Philippines, the carnage in Manila ended on March 3, 1945 after American troops and Filipino irregulars routed the last Japanese holdouts.

The Escodas' legacy

They found no mortal remains to bury and mourn over, but Ma. Teresa Escoda (Roxas) and Antonio Jr. lived to enjoy the legacy of their martyred parents. In the postwar period, after completing his studies at Phillips Academy (Andover) and at Yale University, Tony returned to Manila and went to work as a top-notch journalist like his father. He also relived the urbane manners and ethical values of his father. "Like Lolo Tony, Uncle Tony was a model figure up to the time of his early death due to cancer," his niece Ching Escoda Roxas Camara told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Like her brother, Ma. Teresa or Bing was sent to the States for further studies by the friends of their martyred parents. Returning to Manila in the 1960s, Bing picked up the sociocultural mission that was her mother's legacy. Working with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and the National Federation of Women's Clubs, which Josefa had co-founded, and with her own group of democracy advocates, Bing continued the campaign to advance Filipino heritage and empowerment.

Real live heroes

"The recent passage of a law penalizing violence against women is just one of the results of the campaign," said another granddaughter Ming Escoda Roxas, adding, "We need heroes in our lives and I am glad that my grandparents were real live ones."

Devotion to country and democracy led their distinguished grandparents on the path to martyrdom.

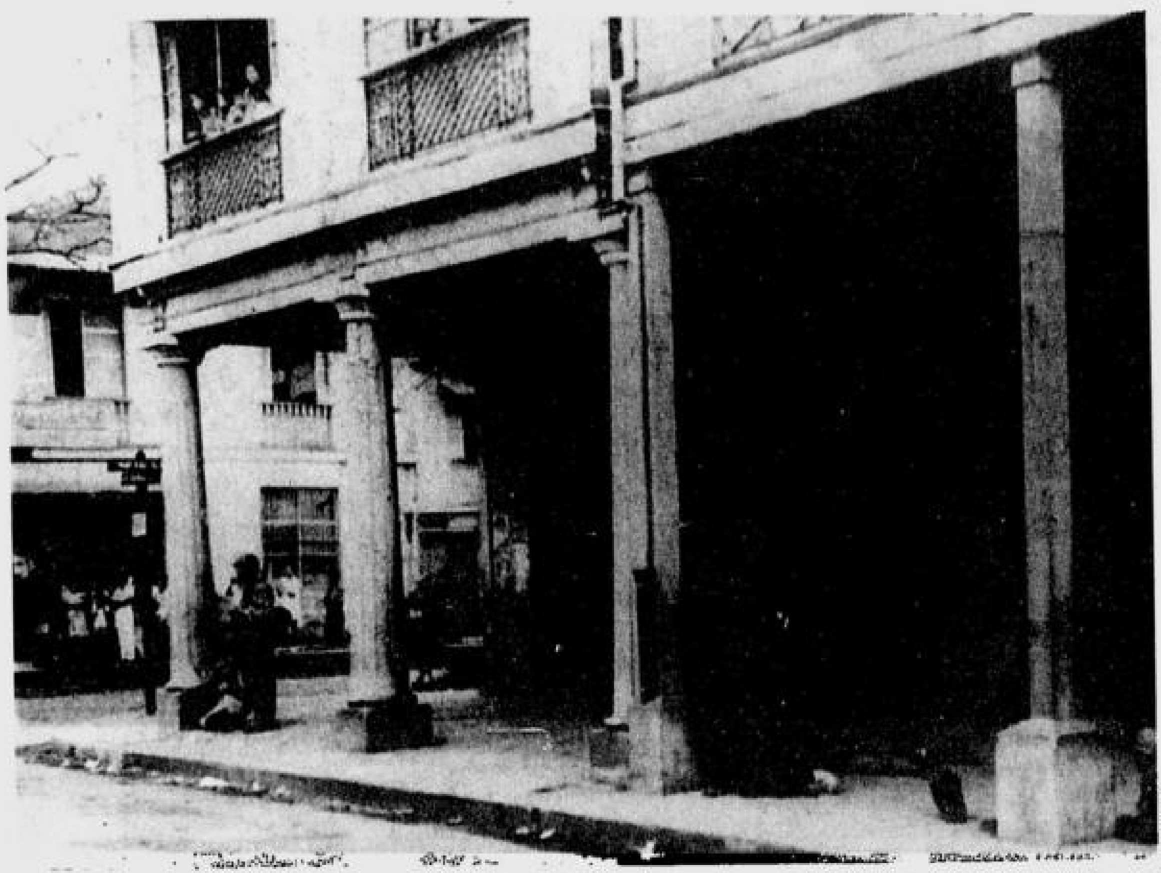
According to another granddaughter, Susan Escoda Roxas, Josefa in 1942 secretly organized women's groups to supply food and drink to the survivors of the Death March at Capas, later to the internees in Los Baños.

She was arrested and sent to Fort Santiago, months after the arrest of Antonio Sr. who had earlier left his job as a newspaper editor and joined the Allied Intelligence Bureau under MacArthur. Japanese jailors allowed the couple one short reunion in Fort Santiago before transferring Antonio to the Bilibid prison in the latter months of 1944.

Quintessential soldier

Escoda had worked with Gen. Vicente Lim of the United States Army Forces in the Far East, providing information about the Japanese occupiers to Fil-American guerrilla forces and to MacArthur's headquarters in Australia. They received orders to proceed to Samar where they would board a submarine for Australia. They were sailing on a small boat with six other guerrillas en route to Samar via Marinduque when they were caught by the Japanese patrol.

According to "Filipinos in History" published by the National Historical Institute, Vicente Lim was the quintessential professional soldier. Admitted as a scholar (*pensionado*) to the US Military Academy at West Point in 1910, he served as 2nd lieutenant in Europe during World War I. He returned to the Philippines and rose to the rank of brigadier general.



CURIOUS bystanders even then, Filipinos look on as American soldiers seek cover from Japanese snipers on Rizal Avenue corner Mayhaligue Street during the Battle for Manila from Feb.3 to March 3.

PDI ARCHIVE

The Philippine Commonwealth government drafted him as chief of the war plans division. In this capacity, he led the bloody rear guard action against the Japanese in Abucay, Bataan. After the Death March and concentration camp in Capas, Vicente Lim conducted secret guerrilla activities while pretending to be confined at the Philippine General Hospital.

Patriotism as moral quality

"Filipinos in History" describes him "as a soldier (who) believed that the nation's strength depends on national character, that patriotism is a moral quality which must be possessed by all and that the will to fight makes every citizen a true soldier . . . In memory of this great soldier, the 11th PC Zone headquarters at Canlubang, Laguna, is named Camp Vicente Lim."

When Lim was executed by the Japanese military in the latter part of 1944, his family was in the United States. Fortuitously, his wife Pilar Hidalgo Lim and their children had gone there for studies and medical treatment, and thus did not see the terrors of 1945.

Noble memory

The youngest of the Lim children, now Dr. Maria Lim Ayuyao of Centro Escolar University, said in an interview that when they returned from the United States, they too undertook a search for the remains of their father but found nothing.

Dr. Lim-Ayuyao said, "What we have is a noble memory of my father, the first Filipino *pensionado* to West Point. He was such a bright student that he tutored some of his classmates in mathematics in which he particularly excelled. He placed a high value on education and inspired me and my siblings to do likewise. He loved his country so much that even when he should have retired, he rejoined the armed forces and helped organize the defense of the Philippines."

Hero of UST

Just a few months after the execution of Lim, the Escodas and hundreds of other Filipino patriots, Manila and much of Luzon were liberated from Japanese control by US forces under MacArthur and Filipino irregulars.

Even before the Battle for Manila began on the 3rd of February, MacArthur had sent several squads of "ghost soldiers" to push ahead to Cabanatuan, Los Baños and the University of Santo Tomas to infiltrate the Japanese guards of the American internees.

Two such "ghosts" had infiltrated UST. The actual liberation of 3,785 internees there came about in the evening of Feb. 3 with the arrival of a "Flying Column" from the First US Cavalry aided by an astute intelligence officer from the Philippines, Capt. Manuel Colayco.

A champion-orator in his student days, Colayco became editor of the pre-World War II La Defensa and Philippine Commonweal Magazine. He and his wife Clemencia Joven also taught at Santo Tomas University. "Filipinos in History" says that when World War II broke out in the Pacific, "Colayco enlisted in the Philippine Army and volunteered to be part of Bataan's first line of defense. He figured in an encounter with enemy forces in Tuol, Bataan, on Feb. 25, 1942. He suffered brutalities at the hands of the Japanese during the heinous Death March.

Intelligence chief

Later that year, he reestablished the Allied Intelligence Bureau becoming chief of its 7th Manila Unit.

Colayco waited at Blumentritt junction for the Flying Column of the First US Cavalry. In the book "The Battle for Manila" by Connaughton, Pimlott and Anderson, Colayco is said to have given the First Cavalry "detailed knowledge of Japanese defenses of northern Manila" enabling the Flying Column to bypass the mined areas. Lt. Col. Haskett Conner invited him aboard the command jeep as they raced through Santa Cruz district, straight to the UST campus facing España.

Mortally wounded

It was dusk by the time they reached the antique archway of the old campus. The main building was surrounded by temporary walls made of woven bamboo or *sawali*. Colayco knew the Japanese guards of the American internees would be positioned behind the *sawali* ready to fire on them. But he pressed on. The first volley came and he fell mortally wounded. Rushed to the hospital, he expired soon after.

It was a short, dramatic life for the young captain.

The widow, Dr. Clemencia Colayco, outlived him by many years during which she would tell her admiring students (this writer was one of them) about how her husband took part in the courageous rescue of the American internees in UST.

Historic markers

The university has honored Captain Colayco with a marker at the broad walk leading to the main building near the spot where he was shot down. A second marker was installed in 1984 at Derham Plaza in Pasay City, his birthplace. *(Tomorrow: The story of the Perez Rubio family)*

RP out of int'l 'dirty money' blacklist; GMA ecstatic

From page A1

timoney laundering measures.

In a statement, the FATF said yesterday it had removed the Philippines, Indonesia and the Cook Islands from its list of "non-cooperative" countries and territories.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo rejoiced upon learning of the delisting of the Philippines by the FATF, saying it would further boost confidence in the country and spur economic recovery.

"Our graduation from the FATF list is a vote of confidence from the international community of our efforts to clean up the mess of the past, enforce good governance, and support global security," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

FATF is an organization formed by member-countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, which includes the powerful Group of Seven developed nations. Its purpose is the development and promotion of policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Money laundering is a crime whereby the proceeds of an unlawful activity are transacted, thereby making them appear to have originated from legitimate sources.

Ms Arroyo said her government will continue to fight corruption through the stricter enforcement of laws, heightened mass education in moral values and tools provided by new forms of technology.

To attract investments

"The FATF's vote of confidence will continue to attract long-term investments that will further underpin the stability of the Philippine peso, and its eventual role in the creation of more jobs and in building infrastructure," Ms Arroyo said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who chairs the country's Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), said the FATF review team recognized the significant progress made by the country in curbing money laundering.

Buenaventura said the AMLC had been instrumental in the crackdown against international money launderers.

Incoming Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima also welcomed FATF's delisting. "This is another positive development which augurs well for the Philippines."

Land Bank of the Philippines president and CEO Gary Teves said: "I guess that improves the sentiment of foreign investors and hopefully, we'll get more support from multilateral institutions."

The Task Force said its recent visits to those countries confirmed that they were effectively implementing anti-money laundering measures to remedy deficiencies which the FATF earlier identified.

Financial intelligence

"The Cook Islands, Indonesia, and the Philippines have anti-money laundering systems that include strict customer identification, suspicious transaction reporting, bank examinations, and legal capacities to investigate and prosecute money laundering," FATF said.

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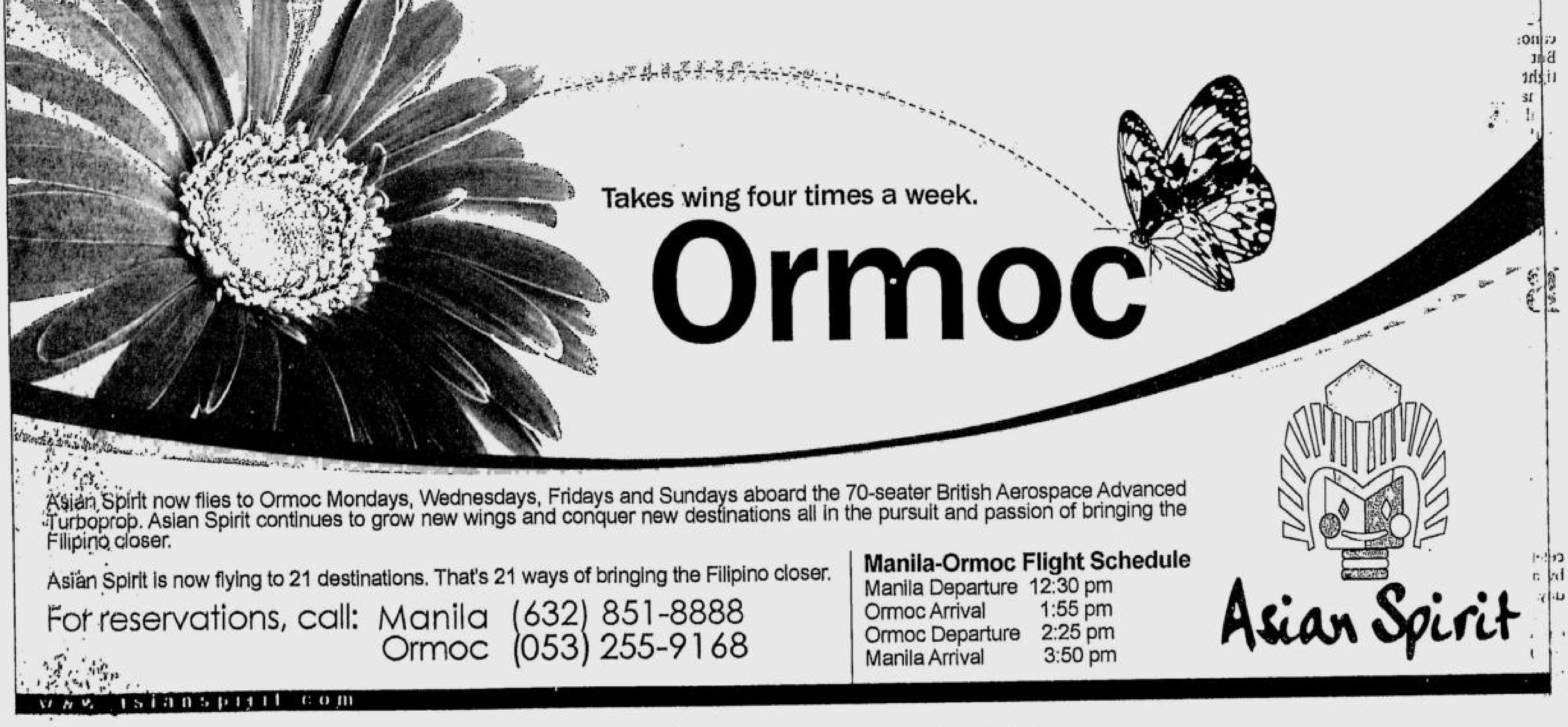

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EQUIPPED with more powerful assault rifles, bullet-proof body armor and night-vision goggles, soldiers trained by the US military arrive in Jolo on Friday as the government ordered more troops to the battlefield. AFP

GMA: No order for ceasefire

From page A1

"They are not involved in any way in our operational activities," Braganza said. "We are using the equipment used in previous trainings and later left by the Americans."

The deployment of the American-trained Light Reaction Company (LRC) and the Scout Ranger Battalion was part of a military buildup to pressure the followers of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari into surrendering, Braganza said.

He said that unless the group, headed by Ustadz Habier Malik, yielded, the military would continue its air and ground assault against them.

'They will get it'

"I will maintain my strong resolve to address what they did. As I have said, what they started, I will finish. They ask for it, they will get it," Braganza said.

The military said it had overrun a major MNLF camp as fighting escalated.

Brig. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, said soldiers captured the MNLF camp in Barangay Bitanag in Panamao town.

The insurgents fled to a hilltop stronghold and Army troops and Marines were chasing them, the military said.

Braganza said his men would not ease their pursuit of the gunmen, led by Malik, until they surrendered.

"He (Malik) is now in imminent defeat, and our troops are finally closing in on him," Braganza said.

Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes also flew in to help oversee the operation and to ascertain that the soldiers had the necessary logistics.

"We also want to ensure that the much needed logistics for the Army and Marines are brought to affected areas to help sustain the continuing operations," said Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla, Air Force spokesperson.

No rest

Braganza said there would be no letup in the operation against Malik's group.

The highest ranking officer slain was Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, commander of the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion.

But Malik said he was not giving up. His remains arrived in Manila last night.

"This trouble is not personal and not to the best of my interest as a person and my family but a concern in the name of our people," he said in a taped message sent to the INQUIRER.

Malik accused the military of "executing" civilians, citing an incident on Feb. 1 when one Ustadz Hayudini was allegedly murdered in cold blood.

"The perpetrators were Marine elements."

"There is no single person who can give justice to our people," Malik said. "If we will leave this matter as is, who will take care of our people? Who can help give justice to our people?"

He justified the attacks his group had launched as defensive.

Malik said he was already willing to meet with government officials to end the crisis but the military was not relenting in its operation.

"We have a scheduled meeting with Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong, but the military did not stop the artillery fire on the civilians. Because of this, I told Governor Loong not to proceed to the rendezvous because we do not want him harmed. We immediately postponed our meeting," he said.

Malik also said his group should not be called renegades.

MILF as mediator

"We are the original MNLF. We recognize chairman Nur Misuari as our legitimate leader. We are not renegades or a breakaway group. We always uphold the MNLF's vision under chairman Nur Misuari," he said.

In Cotabato City, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said it was willing to broker a ceasefire between the government and Malik's group.

"We believe we have the modest capacity to do this because we are in a peace negotiation with the government and we have an open line with our brothers in the MNLF," MILF chief negotiator Mohaqher Iqbal said in a statement.

"We also have the necessary experience in handling this kind of task."

He said the MILF wanted to help because the civilians were suffering.

"Declaration of ceasefire is the most logical step to be taken up by both parties," Iqbal said.

In Zamboanga City, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Affairs Jesus Dureza confirmed that the number of evacuees had risen.

Evacuees increasing

Dureza said that as of Friday, the government had already counted 6,500 individuals who had fled their homes.

"This is still a running figure because of the ongoing military operation there," he said.

Dureza, who went to Sulu earlier to personally assess the situation, said "this adventurism committed by a small group" would not have a direct impact on the general situation in Mindanao.

"They have distracted some efforts there, now disrupted (some of) our efforts (in Sulu)," he said.

The government is investigating reports that Misuari might have a hand again in the clashes between his loyal supporters and government troops in Sulu, according to incoming National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. He also said the people being pursued by the military were not members of the MNLF but a breakaway group.

Probing Misuari role

"We're looking into all angles. There might be things that we need to consider including the possible role of Nur Misuari," Gonzales said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

But he qualified his remark by saying that the information about any Misuari role in the clashes did not come from very reliable sources.

Still, he said he would look into it.

Gonzales said he might have to see Misuari, who is held in a military detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Gonzales also said he would look into sketchy reports that the clashes in Sulu might have something to do with "efforts" to secure Misuari's release from detention.

"The instruction of the President is to look at the whole situation in Sulu," Gonzales said.

Ms Arroyo stressed that the group involved in the clashes was not the MNLF because the latter had an existing peace agreement with the government.

But she conceded that the group was composed of people loyal to Misuari.

Ceasefire committee

"This is a breakaway group," Ms Arroyo said.

Earlier, De los Reyes said government emissaries had already been sent to Sulu to explore the possibility of a ceasefire.

"There is a committee that is handling this led by Governor Loong of Sulu and I understand Secretary (Jesus) Dureza is also there and looking into ways by which there could be ceasefire between the government troops and the breakaway group as well as the Abu Sayyaf," said De los Reyes.

"Nevertheless, the AFP would heed the policy that would be provided by the committee. If there is a decision for a ceasefire, then we will abide by such a decision," De los Reyes said.

Deep sympathy

Ms Arroyo expressed her "deepest sympathies" to the family of Colonel Villanueva, the slain battalion commander, as well as the other troopers who were killed in battle.

"Their gallantry in combat brings deep pride and prestige to the command at a time that the Filipino soldier must be seen in his or her finest," Ms Arroyo said.

Ms Arroyo also extended her sympathies to the civilians displaced by the fighting. *Ed General, Julie S. Alipala, Edwin O. Fernandez with reports from Joselle Badilla and Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Alcuin Papa*

Dinky's happy memories of Jolo give way to gunfire

By Volt Contreras

THE LAST time she saw the people of Sulu, they were in their best *malongs* and already conveying a sense of "moving on."

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman expressed frustration yesterday at the return of violence in the province, a major recipient of her agency's rehabilitation projects for the last three years.

"It's really sad that the work that has been done there ... is interrupted again by all this fighting," she told the INQUIRER.

Refugees are back

Soliman said that around 1,200 families had fled their homes since fighting broke out on Monday in four Sulu towns between government forces and a faction of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Two of the towns have benefited from a housing program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development under her watch.

These are Indanan and Patikul, where up to 200 "core shelter" units costing P25,000 each have been built and livelihood assistance worth P2 million has been distributed by the DSWD and the local government since 2002, Soliman said.

And yet for the past few days, these two towns, along with Parang and Panamao, are once again producing refugees following fresh clashes between the military and MNLF insurgents.

Soliman gladly noted, however, that this latest wave of evacuees did not include families who had already been awarded DSWD core shelters.

Like a fiesta, then

Soliman remembered the time in the third quarter of last year when she last visited Jolo, Sulu's capital, during the town's foundation day. Then, "everyone was in their best *malongs*, there was singing and dancing in the streets, and there was plenty of food in the plaza," she said.

It was like a Catholic fiesta, except that the celebrants were mostly Muslims.

Local officials spoke then with confidence of finally attracting more investors.

"The sense I got the last time I went there was that we're moving on," she said.

Nur key to stopping . . .

From page A1

tion to "tap the leadership of Chairman Nur Misuari... to have an immediate cessation of hostilities and eventually a search for a peaceful and viable solution to the present conflict."

The party said Misuari "still has a following in the south and is still the recognized chair of the MNLF by the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference]."

Another Muslim leader, chair Amerol Ambiong of the Metro Manila Muslim Peace and Order Coordinating Council, said Misuari's intervention was also vital.

"Nur Misuari should be talked to so he could negotiate with his own people in order to stop the conflict," Ambiong said.

Misuari has been jailed since 2002 on rebellion charges.

Transfer place of detention

Abbas said that to start with, the government should immediately transfer Misuari, now held in an army camp in Laguna, to another place of detention because he had been "sickly."

"If Misuari dies in jail, the government should brace for an all-out war," Abbas warned.

At a press conference, leaders of the Bangsa Moro Party asked the government to create an independent task force to investigate the roots of the conflict.

The task force should include representatives from the Muslim Bar Association of the Philippines and the Commission on Human Rights, they said.

Misuari signed a peace deal with the government in 1996 as leader of the Moro National Liberation Front. Violence flared again in 2001 and Misuari was jailed on rebellion charges.

No military solution

Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin reminded the government that military force alone would never solve the problem in the area.

He called on local government officials and the MNLF Council of 15 to meet to revive the Government-MNLF Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities.

Anak Mindanao Rep. Mujiv Hataman said both camps had to sit and talk instead of complicating things at the expense of innocent civilians.

"The long-term effects of war should be given attention. People are displaced and children are starving. Let us instead talk how we can address the problem immediately and long-term needs of the people," Hataman said.

"Tourism will surely get a fatal blow once again because of this," Hataman added.

Sen. Minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said only a fair and speedy trial of Misuari would restore peace in Sulu.

Pimentel asked the executive and judiciary to take steps to hasten the resolution of the rebellion cases against Misuari which had been in court for more than two years now.

The lone senator from Mindanao said government efforts to persuade Moro fighters loyal to Misuari to stop the armed hostilities in Sulu might not succeed without a guarantee that Misuari would be "fairly treated" and the case against him would be given the "due attention it deserves."

"As far as Nur Misuari is concerned, it is important that he should be tried soonest, that he should not be held in captivity without any movement in the court of law as to his case will be resolved," Pimentel said.

"It has been there for two years with little progress. And I think that's unfair."

Pimentel said hostilities in Sulu might escalate unless an immediate ceasefire was forged between the Armed Forces and MNLF-Misuari group.

He led a soldier's life, died a soldier's death

From page A1

gave his life for our country and people," Pascual said. "He is a true hero for our time."

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said the military had "lost a hero."

"But this is part of soldiery—offering the ultimate sacrifice in the service of God, country and people. We are proud to have him in our ranks," Braganza said.

After finishing sixth in the "Sinagtala" class—the first PMA class to graduate after the overthrow of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos—Villanueva was assigned to the 55th Infantry Battalion of the 1st Tabak Division.

No war freak

It was in Tabak—by accounts the most battle-scarred division in Mindanao, whose history is the stuff of legend—that he moved from platoon leader to company commander to battalion staff.

But his wish to be assigned to Mindanao did not mean that the father of three was a "war freak," according to Lt. Col. Leouel Santos, another of his classmates at the PMA.

"We belonged to the same Protestant group and he was very religious," Santos told the INQUIRER. "He was kind to his fellowmen and would never hurt anyone. He got along with everyone, and there was never a dull moment when he was around."

In 1994, Villanueva started specializing in intelligence, training with the intelligence unit of the 1st Division.

He was sent to East Timor in 2000 as part of the Philippine military's peacekeeping force there.

Heart at two front lines

He climbed another rung in the career ladder when he became head of the Army's 9th Intelligence and Security Unit in 2001.

Santos remembers Villanueva as an achiever who saw not only career opportunities but also "more challenge" in field work.

"He was a true field man, very smart and very brave," Santos said, adding:

"I don't think he ever accepted assignments in Metro Manila at all, like Fort Bonifacio (the Army headquarters) or GHQ (Camp Aguinaldo). His heart was at the front lines."

But last year, Santos said, Villanueva asked him if there were vacant positions at the Department of National Defense.

Villanueva was to have been assigned to the DND last November, but then the post of commander of the 1st Division's 53rd Infantry Battalion was suddenly also offered to him.

True-blue

"He considered [being a battalion commander] an achievement, like a promotion. I think that's why he took it," Santos said.

Villanueva, born in Cotabato City, was a true-blue son of Mindanao.

From 1999 to 2003, as chief of the Military Intelligence Company and intelligence surveillance, he operated in Basilan, Sulu and the Zamboanga Peninsula, and was credited for the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Bakal Hapilon.

He was also credited for his contribution to the anti-terrorism campaign that led to the fall of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Aldam Tilao alias Abu Sabaya.

"He hated exposure. He just worked quietly, giving all the credit to the others," said Army Capt. Paulo Perez, one of Villanueva's junior officers.

Lt. Col. Arnold Fernandez, another member of the Sinagtala class, told the INQUIRER that Villanueva was in high spirits when he was sent to Jolo.

"He was happy to know that another 'mistah' was also assigned in Jolo, and even joked that the 104th Brigade in Sulu was powered by Class '86," Fernandez said.

"Dennis had very good leadership," Fernandez said. "He was fun to speak with, very light. But when you discussed serious matters with him, you saw that he was a service-oriented man."

Class '86, is itself famous for a lot of things.

"Our name, Sinagtala, signified the rising of a new dawn for our country," said Jarque.

Santos said the fact that Sinagtala was the first post-Marcos PMA class fostered strong idealism among its members.

"We strongly felt that it was our place in history, having that distinction after Edsa [in 1986]," he said. "In a way, it shaped our thinking. Most of us ... take our jobs very seriously. That's the reason most of us made field assignments our career."

Wake at Camp Aguinaldo

Villanueva's body has arrived in Camp Aguinaldo, which was deemed a more accessible place for his wake.

It was flown from Sulu to Zamboanga City early Thursday night.

The bemedalled officer is survived by his wife Evangeline, daughter Janel Kay and sons Jan Kevin and Kim Janus.

According to Perez, one of the children is afflicted with a heart ailment, and the widow will have to cope with the corresponding medical expenses.

Awards, citations

Among Villanueva's awards and citations are two Gold Cross medals (the third highest award for gallantry in combat), 20 Bronze Cross medals, 16 Military Merit awards, and a United Nations service medal.

In the tradition of the PMA, he was called "Banaba" for no other reason than that all cadets surnamed Villanueva are given that nickname. *With reports from Joselle Badilla and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Foul odor gives away shabu laboratory in Valenzuela City

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Leila B. Salaverria and Christian V. Esguerra

THE UNBEARABLE stench from a suspected shabu laboratory in a rented warehouse in Valenzuela City gave its presence away.

But operatives of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency failed to arrest any suspects when they got there.

The warehouse owner, Gerry Uy, had tipped authorities about the illegal operation because residents had complained they could not stand the odor coming from the laboratory.

According to Northern Police District Director Noe Wong, a Chinese national who introduced himself as James Tan told Uy that he would set up a garments factory in the warehouse on De Guzman Street in Barangay Parada last December.

Residents later complained about the unbearable odor coming from the warehouse. Uy tried to inspect the site, but the lessors reportedly refused to let him in.

"The residents were so angry that some of them even stoned the warehouse early this month," PDEA Deputy Director Rodolfo Caisip said.

Last week, the occupants left the warehouse.

Neighbors took the opportunity to seek the help of police. A warrant was secured on Wednesday to search the place.

The lessors never returned.

Yesterday, NBI and PDEA operatives and policemen from the Valenzuela Police Station searched the warehouse.

National Police Deputy Chief For Operations And Anti-illegal Drugs Task Force Chief Ricardo De Leon told the INQUIRER that at least 15 plastic containers of liquid shabu, solid shabu which had not yet crystallized, and boxes of chemicals used as precursors in making shabu were found in the laboratory.

The equipment and chemicals were capable of producing 100 kilos or P300 million worth of shabu a day.

The laboratory was allegedly operated by at least six Chinese nationals led by Tan, and was said to be bigger than the shabu dens raided in Bataan late last year.

NBI AGENTS and police traced the source of foul odor to a shabu laboratory in Brgy. Parada, Valenzuela City. MITCH MAURICIO

Stakeout

NBI antidrug task force chief Ruel Lasala said they conducted a three-day stakeout with Valenzuela policemen and PDEA agents before raiding the warehouse to see if the suspects would show up.

Said De Leon: "The success in the crackdown against drug trafficking and manufacturing is the active participation of the community in giving vital information to drug law enforcers."

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said there are signs that residents can look for to see if an establishment is being used as a shabu laboratory.

Apart from the presence of foul or unusual smells, establishments that receive big deliveries in the dead of night or at unusual hours are possible clues.

Wycoco said warehouses that show a sudden surge in electricity bills are also suspect.

Reporter's affidavit will clear me —Pedrozo

By Leila B. Salaverria

DISMISSED Manila policeman Supt. Marcelino Pedrozo is banking on the affidavit of a television reporter to clear him. Pedrozo was accused of being involved in the illegal activities of former National Bureau of Investigation agent Martin Soriano.

Pedrozo said the GMA 7 reporter had executed an affidavit stating that he had introduced Pedrozo to Soriano last month because the latter allegedly had information about an illegal drug operation in Manila.

Soriano was supposed to give the information to police, but the operation did not push through.

"The affidavit will show that I only met Soriano recently," he said.

Pedrozo also said yesterday that he and the 17 other Manila policemen who were relieved from their posts because of perceived links to Soriano were already willing to appear before their superiors because they were given assurances that they would not be presented before the media.

"We will go there with our five lawyers who will make sure that we will not be shown as suspects since we had not been subjected to an inquest or charged with an offense," Pedroza said.

The policemen earlier refused to go to Camp Crame, saying they feared that they would be presented in a lineup during a press conference, which would, in effect, subject them to trial by publicity.

Western Police District director (WPD) Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong earlier ordered the 18 policemen to report to district headquarters or face sanctions. The 18 later appeared at the WPD.

Soriano, a former NBI intelligence agent, was arrested recently for allegedly kidnapping a woman and demanding money for her release. Several policemen were also reported to be his protectors.

Manila sets 2nd kiss fest for Valentine's Day

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THOUSANDS of couples will once again lock lips at 12 midnight of Feb. 13 for a massive public display of affection on Roxas Boulevard as Manila holds the Lovapalooza kiss fest.

In this second staging of the event, local officials and toothpaste brand Close-Up, the event's main organizers, expect a repeat of last year's world record-breaking kiss fest.

Around 5,327 couples smooched ten seconds into Valentine's Day last year. It put the country in the Guinness Book of World Records for the most number of couples that kissed at the same time.

"The theme is a million kisses for the nation. It's no longer aimed at setting a record… we would like to gather couples to show their affection on Valentine's Day," said Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Atienza and his wife Beng would be among those kissing at 12 midnight in Manila. Lovapalooza will also be staged in Cebu, Davao and Angeles City.

Local artists and bands will perform at the Rajah Sulayman park hours before the event starts.

The Western District Traffic Enforcement Office is diverting traffic from several portions of Roxas Boulevard for the event. From 9 a.m., the northbound lane of Roxas Boulevard from President Quirino Avenue to TM Kalaw Avenue will be closed.

By 5 p.m., both northbound and southbound lanes of Roxas Boulevard, from Pablo Ocampo Street (Vito Cruz) to TM Kalaw Avenue, will also be closed.

Motorists bound north are advised to turn right on Quirino Avenue from Roxas Boulevard, left on Mabini Street or straight through Taft Avenue.

Pasig plant gets another extension

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE CHEMICAL plant that was shut down and later allowed to reopen in Pasig City got an extension to operate for nine more days.

Plant officials said the extension was made by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Technically, LMG Chemicals Corp. would still be operating for 30 days since it did not immediately reopen after it was allowed to do so.

LMG, which produces around 90,000 metric tons of chemicals a year, was suspected of making 25 students ill in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, last year. The plant has continued to deny it caused the September incident.

On Jan. 11, the DENR-National Capital Region lifted the cease and desist order issued against the plant last year. The order was supposed to end Feb. 11. DENR-NCR, however, extended it up to Feb. 20 since Mayor Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio allowed the plant to reopen only on Jan. 20.

Initially opposed to the reopening, Eusebio issued the plant a business permit after it put up a P500,000 fund (now with the city treasurer's office) that could be used during an emergency.

LMG general manager Jose Fernandez said he would next seek the permanent lifting of the order, or get a new extension if no final decision was made by the DENR-NCR and the Pasig City environment unit by Feb. 20.

Fernandez said LMG already complied with requirements set by the environmental bodies.

Air in surrounding barangays was constantly monitored and a report will be submitted to help the DENR-NCR and the city environment unit reach a decision.

Fernandez said LMG spent around P2 million on remedial measures and on a new air monitoring system that included air testing equipment and gas detector tubes. LMG also provided Barangays San Joaquin, Kalawaan and Pinagbuhatan with a public address system.

Fernandez said an air dispersion model could predict the concentration of sulfur dioxide (SO2).

Prior to the September incident, it was alleged that in August 2001, a 54-year-old housewife died, while 30 others, including a 2-year-old boy, were hospitalized due to toxic fumes from the plant.

Military caught unprepared in Sulu

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

HAD the military learned the bitter lessons of the past in dealing with the Moros, it wouldn't have suffered defeat in the early hours of the renewed hostilities in Sulu.

Government troops were caught unprepared by attacks from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Peace in Sulu was holding, albeit precariously, because of the truce signed by the MNLF with the government.

But Moros, especially the Tausugs, are restless people. They prefer war to peace. If they can't wage war against the government, they fight among themselves. That has been their nature even before the coming of the Spaniards.

Because the military was caught unprepared, it reacted much like a carabao reacts to the proddings of its master: exceedingly slow.

The Southern Command (Southcom) based in Zamboanga City sent reinforcements to the beleaguered troops in Sulu two days after the breakout of hostilities. A very slow reaction indeed, considering that lives were at stake.

In the first few hours of the renewed hostilities, 14 Marines were killed. As the fighting continued, a total of 25 soldiers were killed in action.

My sources said the rebels captured a Simba tank which they used against the Army.

The military should have prepared for the bloodbath because there were signs it would erupt. The MNLF was coddling Abu Sayyaf bandits who were responsible for kidnapping foreigners from a Malaysian resort several years ago.

The military high command should have known the Moro psychology: you never turn your back on a Moro.

The military was complacent before the attacks.

They should have remembered the fate of Brig. Gen. Teodulfo Bautista, commander of the 1st Infantry "Tabak" Division, was hacked to death with some of his men during peace talks with Moro rebels in Patikul, Sulu in 1977.

Bautista was too trustful of the Moros. And why not? Whenever some dependents of Moro rebels got sick, they were sent to Bautista's camp and treated by military doctors. When the rebels needed food, Bautista's men gave them food.

But during a dialogue with the Moro rebels outside the Army camp, the general and a handful of his men were shot at close range and then hacked to death when they were lying on the ground.

Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, Southcom chief, should have studied the psychology of the Moros. If he had, he would have dispatched additional men to Sulu before trouble began.

Gen. Efren Abu, Armed Forces chief of staff, should have advised Malacañang that trouble was brewing in Sulu, so his commander in chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, could have prepared for any eventuality.

My sources in the military said that Abu is an "overrated" commander. Somebody else should have been appointed in his place.

Armies all over the world have this saying about dealing with their enemies: It's natural for a military man to be defeated in combat because in a fight there are always victor and loser. But it's not natural for a military man to be caught flatfooted.

Both Abu and Braganza were caught flatfooted.

* * *

If illegal logging is not stopped in Cateel, Davao Oriental, it might become another Ormoc City (or Quezon and Aurora) in the coming years.

Rampant cutting down of trees goes on in the mountains of Cateel. And the one behind the illegal logging is allegedly Jaypet Palma-Gil, son of the governor.

The Environment and Department of Natural Resources should look into the report of illegal logging in Cateel before it's too late.

Police eye old case in PAO lawyer's slay

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE KILLING of Teresita Vidamo could be linked to a previous case she handled as head of the Las Piñas Public Attorney's Office (PAO), according to the city's chief of police.

"We have reviewed the cases she handled and we have a very good lead," said Supt. Perpetuo Sanson.

The INQUIRER learned that the victim was only in her sixth month as chief of the local PAO.

Vidamos was earlier detailed in the office of then Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez at the Department of Justice.

Sanson said they were optimistic the suspects would be apprehended over the weekend. The chief of police said they did not discount the possibility that the suspects were hired killers.

He refused to elaborate on the ongoing investigation, but confirmed that the task force was now on the trail of the suspects.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez had also ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to help identify and hunt down Vidamo's killers.

Vidamo was ambushed by four unidentified men as she was about to leave her house in Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City, on Wednesday. She was shot several times in the head.

City employees spruce up parks, plazas

MANILA'S government employees would once again be giving up precious weekend hours to clear the city's parks and plazas of trash as City Hall scheduled today a city-wide cleanup drive.

In a memorandum sent to all of the city's departments and offices, Secretary to the Mayor Emmanuel Sison enjoined all city employees to partake in the cleanup, held by City Hall every second Saturday of the month.

Dubbed "Maayos at Malinis na Kapaligiran Tungo sa Kaunlaran (Clean and Orderly Surroundings Towards Progress)," the cleanup would begin at 7:30 a.m. today, and is expected to be wrapped up in half a day.

The drive involves 8,000 employees cleaning up a total of 47 parks and plazas in Manila's six districts. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

MMDA extends hours for redeeming licenses

TO ACCOMMODATE the increasing long line of drivers wanting to redeem their confiscated licenses, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has extended its operation by two hours daily, and the whole day on weekends.

According to MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna, another working area in the MMDA office lobby in Orense St., Makati City, would also be put up for drivers who had to spend long hours claiming their licenses.

The long line was attributed to the 20-day temporary restraining order issued on Jan. 27 by the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 145 on three MMDA traffic policies: the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket, the No Contact Traffic Apprehension, and the Organized Bus Route schemes.

The order was in response to a petition by nine transport groups which claimed that the implementation of the schemes trampled on "their constitutional right to due process, which necessarily include their right to life."

With the MTT, traffic violators needed only to pay the fine at any Metrobank branch in the country.

Lacuna also denied accusations that the long lines were meant to get back at the drivers who were opposed to the schemes. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

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Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASKETBALL:

NBA—Nuggets vs Cavs; 9 a.m. (r-7 p.m.); ESPN; T-Wolves vs Jazz; 10 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports; Mavs vs Kings; 11:30 a.m. (r-9:30 p.m.); ESPN - Melo and LeBron meet once again while western squads collide when Minnesota takes on Utah and Dallas meets Sacramento.

US NCAA—Notre Dame vs Pittsburgh; tomorrow at 1 a.m.; ESPN—The Fighting Irish battle the Panthers in the Big East.

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Court junks Eala plea

By June Navarro

THE REGIONAL Trial Court of Quezon City yesterday denied the motion of Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) commissioner Noli Eala asking the court to reconsider its Jan. 26 order to lift the league's suspension of Talk 'N Text basketball player Paul Asi Taulava.

Judge Rogelio Pizarro of the Quezon City RTC Branch 222 ruled that Eala's motion reiterated the same reasons already ventilated in a previous hearing and that the order of preliminary mandatory injunction for the lifting of the suspension has already become effective upon the posting of a bond by Taulava.

The court had directed Eala and the PBA "to allow petitioner (Taulava) to resume the exercise of all his contractual rights, including his right to play in the current All-Filipino Conference and succeeding conferences of the PBA during the term of the petitioner's Uniform Player's Contract dated June 19, 2001, until further orders from this court and/or unless restrained by higher judicial authority upon the filing of a bond in the amount of One Million Pesos."

Lawyer

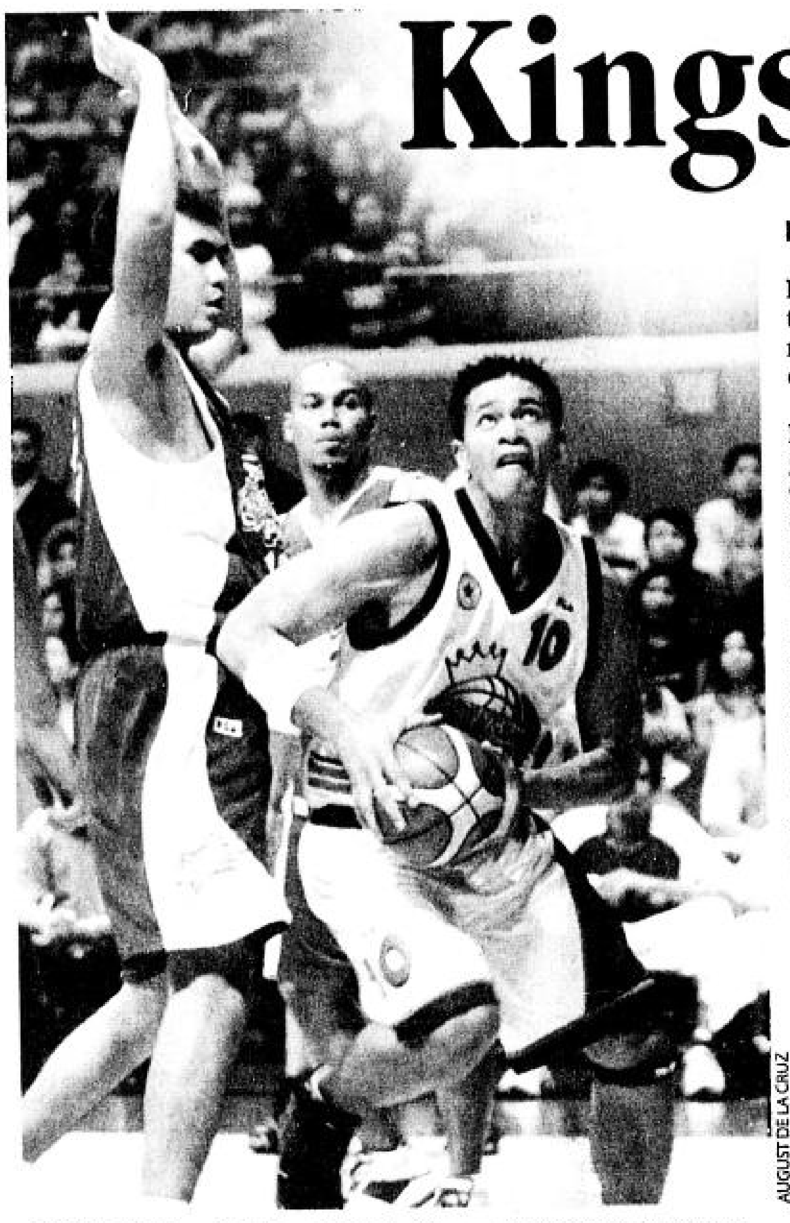
A few hours before Game 6 of the PBA Finals, Taulava's lawyer Eduardo Francisco challenged Eala to make good his word that he would act on the Jan. 16 order of the court when the PBA's motion for reconsideration has been resolved.

Francisco quoted Eala as having said that "the PBA would like to reiterate that Taulava's reinstatement would depend on the final resolution of our motion for reconsideration, as well as his compliance with the requirements for reinstatement issued by the PBA board."

"Now that the court has dismissed the PBA's motion, I challenge Eala to make good his word," Francisco said.

Eala clarified, however, that the league would still go through one more legal process once it receives a copy of the latest decision.

Kings get their crown



GINEBRA'S Romel Adducul (right) drives past Talk 'N Text's Yancy Ocampo in Game 6 last night.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

By June Navarro

ERIC Menk justified his MVP role to the hilt and Barangay Ginebra rolled to a second straight championship for the season last night.

Backed by a determined crew, Menk sizzled for 39 points and grabbed 19 rebounds as Barangay Ginebra swept past Talk 'N Text, 96-86, and captured the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup title at the Araneta Coliseum.

Menk's double-double performance rubbed off on Mark Caguioa, Sunday Salvacion and Rommel Adducul who also played key roles as the Kings finished off the Phone Pals and clinched the best-of-seven championship series, 4 games to 2.

``Everybody stepped up and we have proved, time and again, that Barangay Ginebra is the best team in the league," said Menk, who added the Finals MVP to the player of the conference award he received earlier.

Salvacion had 13 of his 18 points in the second half and Adduçul added 14 points and seven rebounds, while Caguioa, who joined hands with Menk in Ginebra's third-quarter breakaway, added 17 points.

Watched by 18,287 raving fans, Caguioa and Menk combined for 15 points in the third period as the Gin Kings broke out of a 52-52 deadlock to take Game 6 of the controversy-marred Finals running away.

After steering the Kings to the Fiesta Cup crown last conference, coach Siot Tanquingcen captured a second straight title that gave the franchise six championships overall.

The La Tondeña franchise also won its second All-Filipino title overall, the first coming 17 years ago in 1988 when the Gin Kings, then Anejo Rhum, defeated Purefoods in their best-of-five series, 3-1.

Jimmy Alapag came out fighting, scoring 23 points and drilling in four three-pointers but the Kings were too determined to end the series last night.

Willie Miller was lethargic almost throughout and recovered his bearings when the Phone Pals were already staring at imminent defeat. Mark Telan and Yancy De Ocampo were also out of their usual forms, combining for only seven points and 15 rebounds.

The scores:

GINEBRA 96—Menk 39, Salvacion 18, Caguioa 17, Adducul 14, Santos 6, Seigle 2, Dimaunahan 0, Noble 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 86—Alapag 23, Miller 19, Pablo 14, Belano 8, Fran 7, Telan 5, Camaso 4, Gelig 2, Ravena 2, De Ocampo 2.

Quarters: 20-14, 42-45, 64-57, 96-86.

PBA Finals enjoys high TV ratings

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association Philippine Cup Finals has been earning tremendous success not only at the turnstiles but on nationwide television as well.

ABC-5 statistics showed that the ongoing best-of-seven championship series between Barangay Ginebra and Talk 'N Text has been getting a fair share in the ratings' game dominated by giant networks GMA-7 and ABS-CBN.

The ratings of the PBA Finals, which has been drawing sellout crowds every playdate, reached its peak in Game 5 where it got an audience share of 29.2 percent, which was second to GMA-7.

Barangay Ginebra snatched Game 5 in double overtime, 95-85, to take a 3-2 lead in the series, which has been enjoying an average rating of 12.58 percent every game. *June Navarro*

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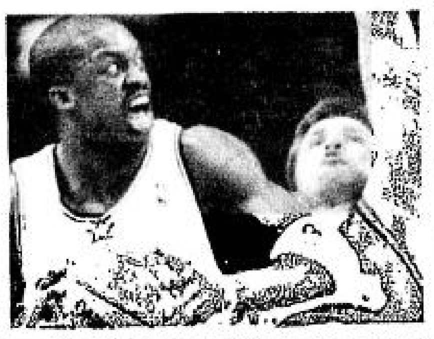
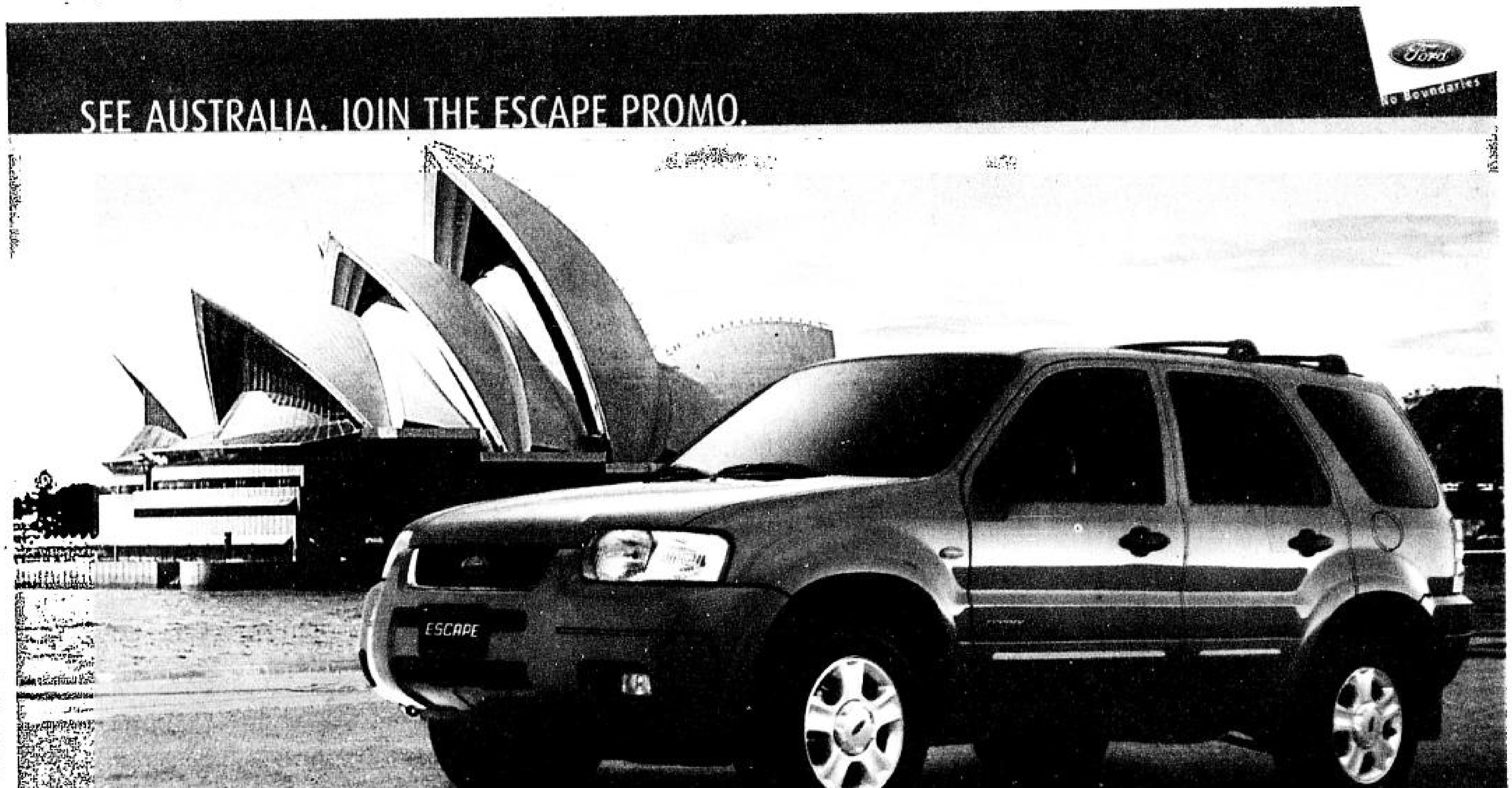
- Pistons destroy Lakers /A28



- Pucay-Roy new pro-am pacesetter /A30
- Bata, Django gain Asian tour seeding /A31



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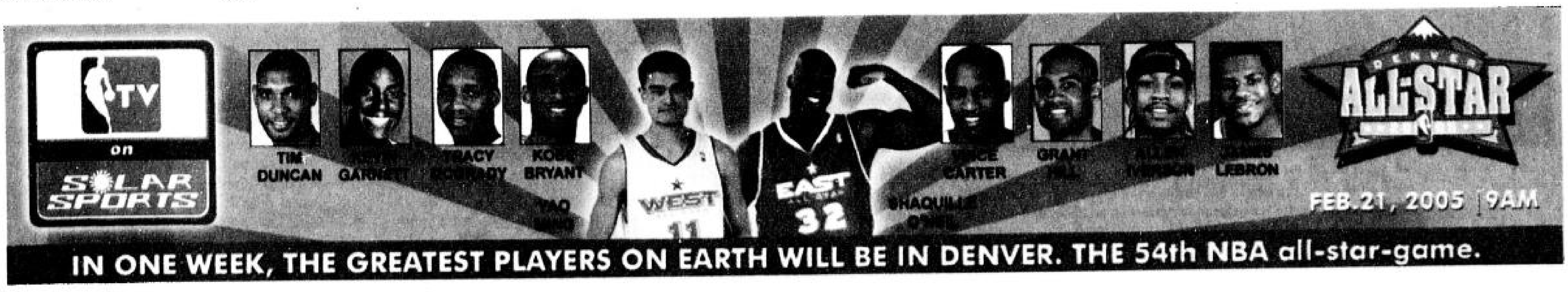


IN ONE WEEK, THE GREATEST PLAYERS ON EARTH WILL BE IN DENVER. THE 54th NBA all-star-game.

Will rivals Globe, Smart co-sponsor SEA Games?

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GLOBE signed up ahead as sponsor of the Southeast Asian Games. But it would be perfect if Smart could also come in.

Why not, said Philippine SEAG Organizing Committee vice chair Peping Cojuangco as he vowed yesterday to "make great things possible" by appealing to Globe Telecom to make do without the lock-out clause that reportedly came with its P100 million Gold Package sponsorship of the Games.

Cojuangco said he wants corporate rival Smart Communications to join the sponsors for the Games slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5 in Manila and three other cities.

Though he claimed not to have seen the contract with Globe where the lockout was supposedly stipulated, Cojuangco said he would nevertheless try to reason it out with Globe, whose chief executive officer, Gerry Ablaza, sealed the SEAG exclusive deal with Philsoc chair Obet Pagdanganan last week.

"If possible, I will try to convince them to do away with lock-out because we need the assistance of everybody for this national cause," Cojuangco told reporters during a briefing at the Manila Hotel.

"This should no longer be a business effort but a national effort. I hope they will look at it this way because I have heard this has been done before," added the Philippine Olympic Committee president.

Cojuangco cited the case of the cause-oriented Gawad Kalinga Foundation where major corporations agreed to make sponsorships without asking for an exclusive right over the marketing materials.

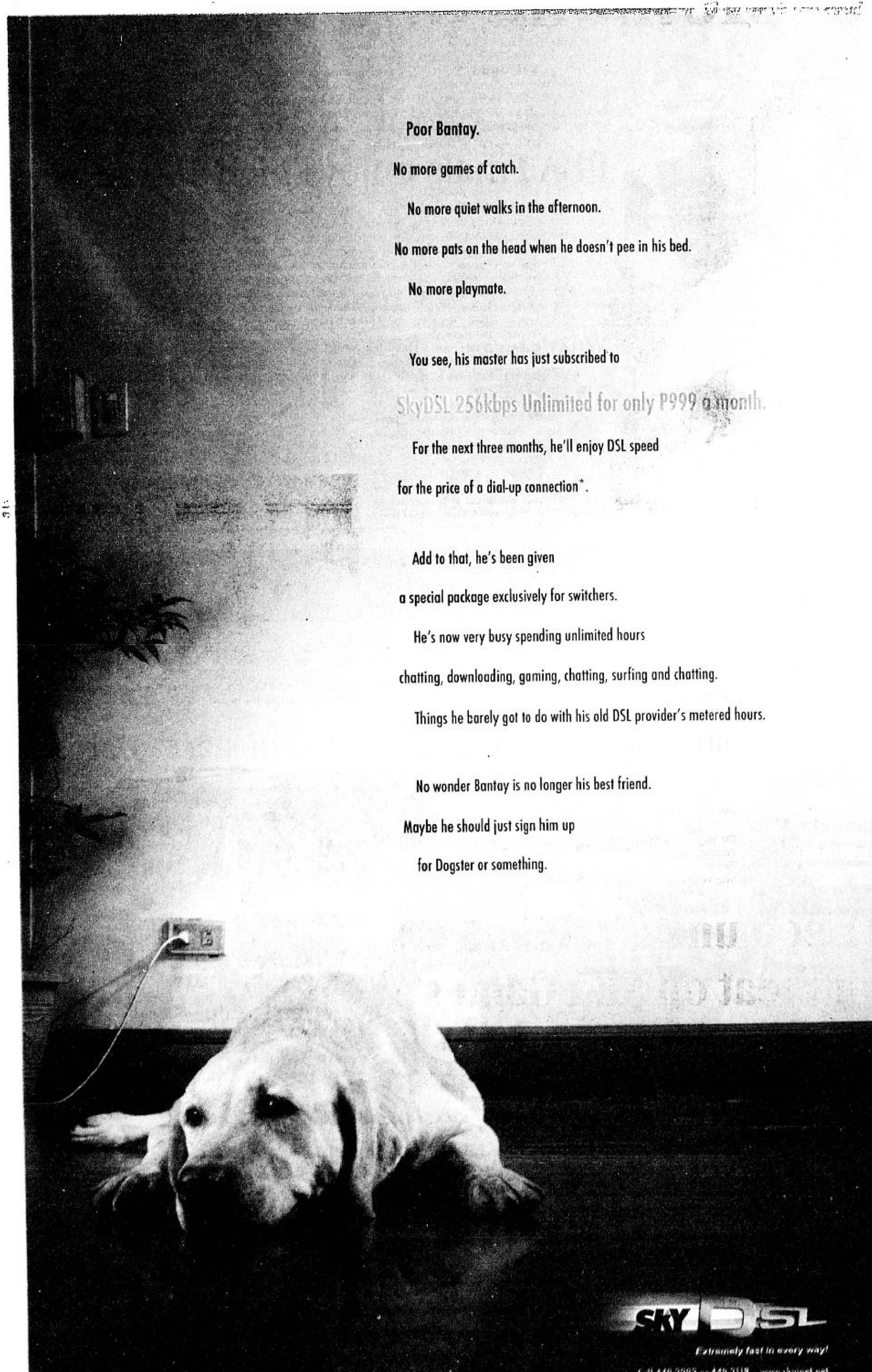
A day after Pagdanganan announced the Globe deal, Philsoc official, Rep. Monico Puentevella said Smart has also committed to a package worth more than P100 million on top of another donation where the company won't ask for any tax benefits.

Globe's deal reportedly includes a lock-out on all telecommunication aspect of the Games, which effectively closed the doors on Smart. Cojuangco said he's not sure if there is indeed a lock-out.

"I might have to talk to Globe, or whoever makes the decisions. We will try to reach that individual," said Cojuangco.

The former Tarlac congressman forged the deal himself with Smart's CEO Manny Pangilinan, who also committed the facilities of PLDT for the coverage of the Games through its subsidiary, Mabuhay Satellite Corp.

Pangilinan has also agreed to lend the NBC Tent at the Fort in Taguig City as venue of the wushu competition.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Unsung heroes

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LONG after the last putt has been dropped in the Konica Minolta National Pro/Am that ends today at the Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite, there will be heroes that will remain unsung—unsung because they never hit the headlines, nor were heaped praise in the awarding ceremonies. Those are reserved for the visible stars of the show. And by visible, we mean usually the winners.

OK, include the handful of men and women who acted as catalysts to make the Konica Minolta National Pro/Am a reality, among them U-Bix boss Bert Bravo and Konica Minolta top executive Shoei Yamana, who combined to put up the P1.5-million pot that ushered in the year's first play-for-money series under the aegis of the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Bert Bravo it was who revived the Pro/Am in 2001 in partnership with Commodore Danny Pizarro (ret.), the Riviera president who graciously offered Riviera as the next permanent home of the revered tournament that "died" in 1995 after being around for nearly 40 years beginning in 1956, with the now-gone Fort Bonifacio layout as its first residence.

Of course, also worth mentioning as among the persons who keep playing key roles since the tournament's revival are NGAP president Benny Gopez, Pro/Am founding member Taby Tabaniag, NGAP Sec-Gen Louie Fernandez, U-Bix COO Vida C. Ty, NGAP Chair Rod Feliciano, Jake Ayson and Christine Lee Altavas, Bert Bravo's efficient, round-the-clock trouble shooter.

Here's to you all guys and dolls. May you eternally lend yourselves to keep the flame of the UBix-sponsored Konica Minolta Pro/Am a-burning. Forever.

Now to the unsung hero, or heroes, if you will.

Joe Dagdagan, the man described last year by Commodore Pizarro as his secret weapon after putting Riviera's Langer in tip-top shape in a short span of time after the sudden withdrawal of Mimosa to host the 88th DHL Philippine Open, played another pivotal role that contributed immensely to the success of the Konica Minolta National Pro/Am.

With rains suddenly pouring in starting in the second round, playing conditions at Langer had suddenly taken a new, if not brutal, twist.

No, we don't mean muddy fairways.

Nor soggy greens.

Nothing of that sort.

Just rains pelting faces of men in golf battle gear, that's what. Part and parcel of war.

For, take this: Riviera, an all-weather course, has been known to be always in perfect shape, come rain or shine.

The secret?

Joe Dagdagan and Alvin Panaligan.

"Well, modesty aside," said Joe, "our business is to be on our toes all year round to keep Riviera in top shape."

A retired sergeant major of the Air Force, Joe, a trim fifty-ish who calls Badoc, Ilocos Norte, his land of birth, sees to it that the pristine beauty of Riviera, sitting on 128 hectares of prime land, is preserved by ensuring that soil erosion is under check 365 days a year.

"Erosion, that's where the challenge lies," Joe said. "Because our course was built on a rolling terrain, we are perpetually challenged to keep its original contour, which is really its main beauty."

With Alvin harnessing his innate talent at identifying friendly weeds, embankments and ravines have been fortified with a grass variety Joe calls *bahia*.

"We've reinforced mostly all our greens, 15 holes I believe, with *bahia* since their roots crawl as deep as five meters," Joe said. "Alvin is the main man for that job."

Trees, said Joe, have been primary components in the maintenance of Riviera's strength and rustic splendor.

"We plant 5,000 seedlings per month, a testament to our commitment to environmental preservation," said Joe, who considers goat meat "the health meat of all time."

Commodore Pizarro, take a bow. You are a lucky man.

If Joe Dagdagan isn't the prime model of golf course management and preservation hereabouts, who is?

***

FASTBREAK. My gratitude also goes to Henry Arabelo, assistant to Riviera GM Buddy Resurreccion. Henry was in his usual helpful mood throughout the Konica Minolta National Pro/Am. Eric Gozo and Alabang-bound Andrew Ong, too, were in their usual supportive selves. Thank you, also, to the President's staff—Olyn Velasco, Zheree Tee, Love Alegre, Myra delas Alas, Ariel Alegre, Reggie Villeta, Shine Desacada, Kaye Reyes, Jona Peji and Zaldy Legaspi and the Pro Shop staff of Noreen Batingal, Shereez Escano, Cyril Medina, Ayen Valenzuela and Lalaine Carandang. And yes, thank you, too, to U-Bix's Mac Almosara, who manned the computer/copier/fax. room quite extremely well. God willing, see you all next year.

Tagaytay card today

ANOTHER big fight await the constituents of Mayor Abraham Tolentino of Tagaytay City at 2 p.m. today when former RP flyweight champion Edgar Rodrigo of Gen. Santos City stakes his ratings against Flash Simbajon in a 10-round elimination match to challenge RP flyweight champions Catubay of Cebu City.

Edgar Rodrigo just won by KO on the 1st round over Thailand Surapol at the Casino Filipino last Jan. 29.

This fight is free to the public according to promoter Jun Sarreal and Mayor Tolentino.

Negros Or. ready to host cagefest—Arnaiz

ARNAIZ

THIS early, Negros Oriental is ready to host the National Students Basketball championship in Dumaguete City and nearby cities and municipalities.

Gov. George Arnaiz gave this assurance yesterday, assuring smooth sailing for the tournament organized by the Basketball Association of the Philippines from Feb. 27-March 5.

"We are now ready for the tournament, especially the mayors of all the cities and the municipalities that will be hosting the games," said Governor Arnaiz. "In fact, all the members of our working committees meet from time to time to make sure that everything is in order, including the billeting, transportation and security.

Arnaiz said he expects around 600 athletes, excluding friends and relatives who might want to visit the picturesque province. BAP officials, led by president Tiny Literal and secretary general Graham Lim, will also be arriving for the association's annual Congress.

"I know that some of the parents of these athletes might accompany their kids to the province, but I don't see any problem because we have already coordinated with the hotel owners in the province," said the governor.

Lim said this good news will certainly give the participating teams the incentive to give their best in the national finals.

"I'm sure the teams will play more intensely with a conducive setting," said Lim. "And we have Governor Arnaiz to thank for that."

Lim also reiterated his call to all regional directors, member of the executive board and permanent commission chairs to attend the national congress scheduled on Feb. 27.

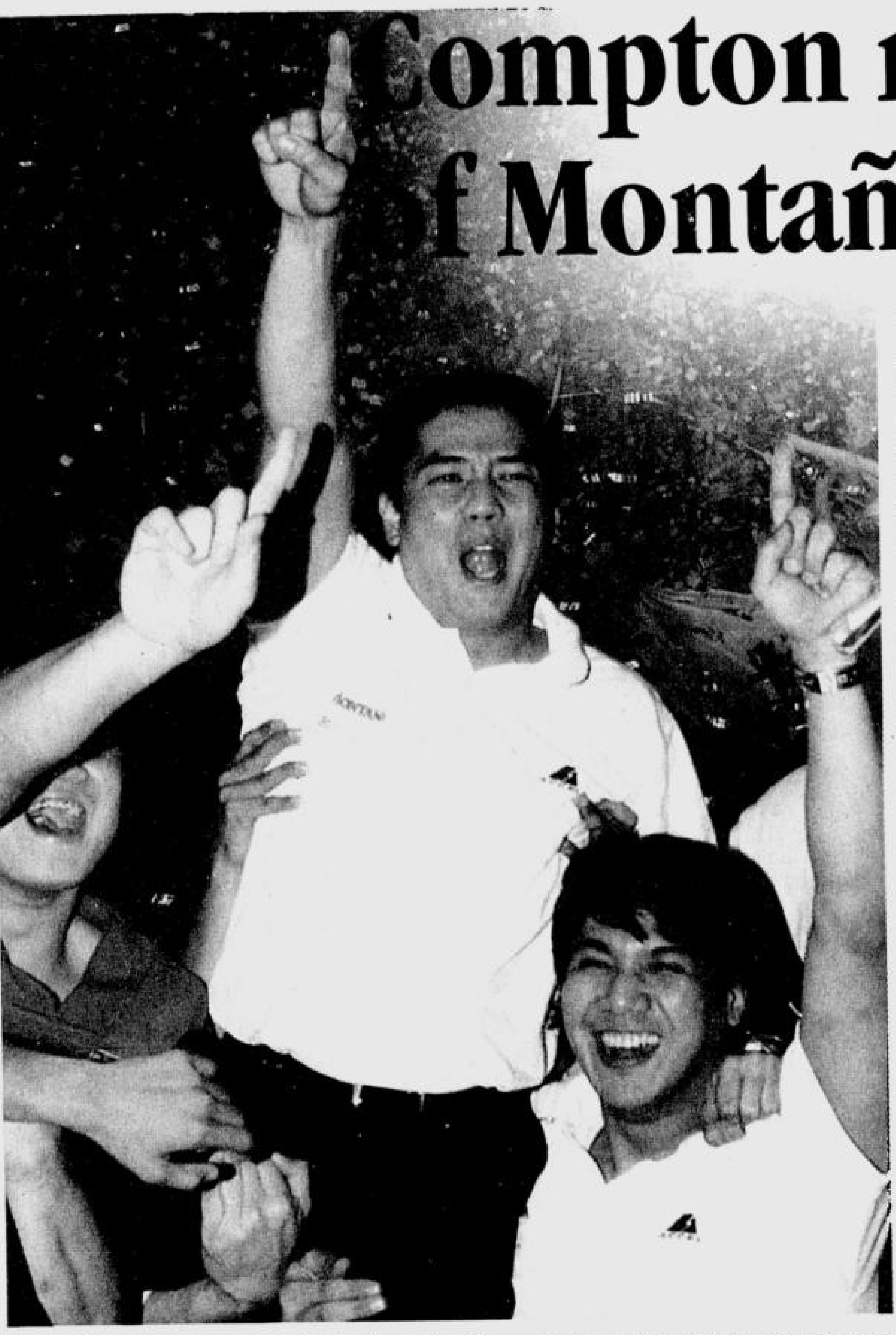
Lim also assigned Red Dumuk as the official BAP representative to coordinate with Governor Arnaiz's sports director Buddy Ravello for the preparation and ceremonial opening.

In other developments, five more regions have sent in their representatives to the national finals, also known as the inter-collegiate and inter-secondary championships.

The recent registrants are from Region I, which will be represented by University of Luzon-Pangasinan (seniors); Region III, which is sending Angeles University Foundation (seniors), Region V (University of Northern Philippines), Region IX, represented by Southern City College and Cordillera Autonomous Region, which will send University of Baguio.

In the high school division, Region VII will be sending its champion team, the Salazar Institute of Technology.

Compton main ingredient f Montaña title chemistry



MONTAÑA coach Robert Sison enjoys the victory ride after copping the PBL Open title Thursday. RUDY ESPERAS

By Jasmine W. Payo

MONTAÑA Jewels coach Robert Sison was convinced his team had the championship chemistry but he continued to lose sleep during the finals series of the PBL Open Championship.

Sison however said he surprised himself when he finally got a good night rest on the eve of winner-take-all encounter against the Welcoat Paintmasters.

"I just felt that we had nothing to worry about," said Sison after the Jewels bagged their first title by drubbing the Paintmasters, 79-65, in Game 5 last Thursday.

True enough, everything fell into place as the Jewels sustained a fiery, unforgiving defense, which proved to be the deciding factor in the title championship duel.

"During the championship series, *walang nakakakumpleto ng tulog sa* coaching staff," Sison bared. "*Balisa kaming lahat.* But when I entered our dugout that day, everybody was in high spirits considering that we came from a (Game 4) loss. And I learned that my coaching staff and players also slept well."

Sison finally felt the aura of a perfect chemistry.

"When I saw my lineup, I saw we're really capable of winning the championship," he said.

Sison said the route to the championship must have opened when sweet-shooting Alex Compton suited up for the Jewels last October.

Sison called the recruitment coup the main component of Montaña's championship chemistry.

"Alex is God's gift to me in this team," said the 37-year-old mentor. "Compton was the glue that binded us together. He's our spiritual leader. He was a superstar with a humble attitude. What more can you ask for. He is Mr. Everything for me."

Named as the Finals Most Valuable Player, Compton averaged 22.4 points during the title series.

But true to form, Compton wouldn't want to take the sole credit for his team's successful run.

"We really have a strong team," stressed Compton. "Even when I had an injury (during the elimination round), we were still winning. I told coach that the team can win without me, but not without Jon Dan (Salvador). During the finals, they focused on him so I was always free outside."

Compton also felt very grateful to his mentor.

"Coach always said that he trusts me," said the 30-year-old guard. "And he told me that if I have any ideas, I should tell him. He gave me that and I became more confident."

Such trust, according to team manager Clarence Aytona, made the Jewels determined throughout the conference.

"When I signed up coach Robert, I saw the transformation of the team," shared Aytona, who hired Sison during the 2004 PBL Unity Cup. "You can see it in the attitude of the players and during practice. He made things possible for the team. He encourages his coaching staff. He's a friend of all the players and even the utilities (staff)."

It's a proven formula that Sison has vowed to continue. "I'm really a coach and a cheerleader," he said. "We will retain all our players."

Sison also cited the performances of Reed Juntilla, Froilan Baguion, Ariel Capus, Al Magpayo, Al Vergara and Erick de la Cuesta.

"Everybody was motivated and determined to play," he said. "I'm glad that in every won game, there's always someone, aside from my key players, who stepped up."

SERIES MVP Alex Compton (left) receives his trophy from PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad. RUDY ESPERAS

First Tanauan Chess Open Mayor's Cup starts March 4

THE 1ST Tanauan Chess Open-Mayor's Cup on March 4-5 will feature the veterans against the rising stars.

Leading the charge of the veterans in the active chess event is Asia's first grandmaster Eugene Torre. The Young Turks will be spearheaded by former World Under-14 Rapid Champion Mark Paragua.

Also joining the fray are Grandmaster-candidates Jayson Gonzales, Ronald Dableo and Ronald Bancod, International Master Idelfonso Datu and the pride of Tanauan City, candidate Fide Master Rico Salimbagat.

The event dangles a cash prize fund of P200,000, the largest for a two-day Active Chess tournament in the country's history.

The event, to be held at the Speaker Jose B. Laurel Memorial Gymnasium in Tanauan City, is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia with the support of the First Asia Institute.

Registration is being accepted at the First Asia Institute, #2 President Laurel Highway, Tanauan City, Batangas with tel nos. (043) 778-0656 and 778-1529 loc 106 (ask for Daniel Darusin) or at the ACCA (ask for Susan Manalo), 6th Floor PDCP Bank Centre, Leviste corner Rufino Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City or contact cell phone no. 0918-6966581; e-mail: acca@info.com.ph.

PFF/Adidas tourney kicks off in Surigao

THE QUALIFYING round in Mindanao for the 2005 PFF/Adidas National Men's Championship kicked off yesterday with high scoring matches.

South Cotabato defeated Surigao del Norte, 7-1, at the Surigao del Norte Sports Complex on goals by Benryan Baldostamon in the 15th and 40th minute; Johnny Victor Molino on the 41st and 89th minute, Mario Farmazo (66th), and two more by Carl Mark Ceniza in the 69th and 74th minute.

Ryan Enrique Himida scored Surigao's sole goal in the 34th minute.

Sultan Kudarat won, 6-3, over Bukidnon with goals by Silvester Sarco in the 2nd, 10th and 25th minute, Richard Datu in the 70th and 76th minute and Romeo Lasamante in the 75th. The Bukidnon scorers were Zeus Mendoza on the 1st minute, Erwin Flores on the 50th and Venmeri Largo on the 87th minute.

Davao beat Butuan/Agusan Norte, 3-0, with goals by Elliot James in the 2nd and 41st minute and one by Jason Mortillero in the 90th.

Only one team in Group E will qualify for the national finals to be held in Cagayan de Oro City from March 6-11.

The 2005 PFF/Adidas National Mens Championship is also backed by Philippine Football Federation sponsor-partners like SuperFerry, Red Ribbon and Petron.

Keon uneasy, Ramirez upbeat on SEA Games

HE'S NOT exactly alarmed but Michael Keon yesterday said nothing concrete has been made since he formally assumed the post of national training director early this week.

Keon said all he was able to do the past several days was meet with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco in his bid to lay the foundation for the training system he plans to implement.

While admitting during yesterday's SCOOP Sa Kamayan in Malate that time is not on his side, Keon nevertheless vowed to do his best to come out with a training scheme to boost the country's bid to win its first overall Southeast Asian Games championship.

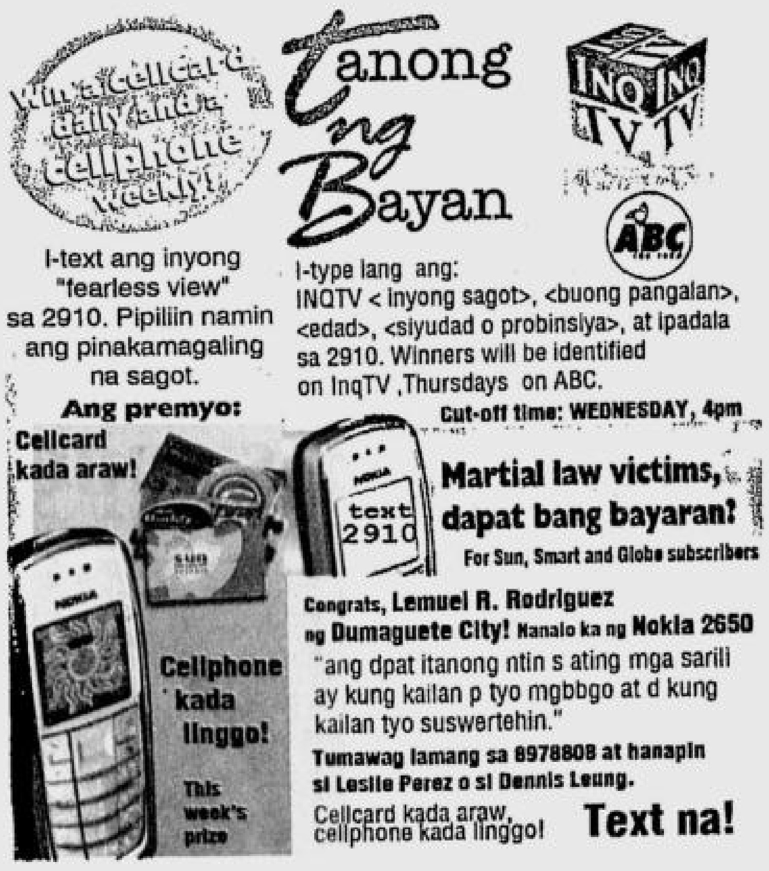
In the same forum, Philippine Sports Commission officer-in-charge Butch Ramirez announced that the five-point instruction given him by President Macapagal-Arroyo has been set in motion only a month after he took over.

The 54-year-old acting PSC chair assured that the President's directive for the agency to attend to the well-being of national athletes, particularly in their preparations for the coming Southeast Asian Games, is well taken care of.

"We already furnished almost all athletes in the national training pool their complete sets of training uniforms, including shoes," said Ramirez, who came to the session with commissioner Mike Barredo and Keon.

Ramirez said he's coordinating with the different national sports associations and the Philippine Olympic Committee to complete the transfer of athletes' training site from the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex to Baguio City and other venues being put up by the PSC.

"We also hired Lydia de Vega to personally attend to our athletes' needs and Mr. Keon as training director to oversee and monitor the athletes' preparations," he said.



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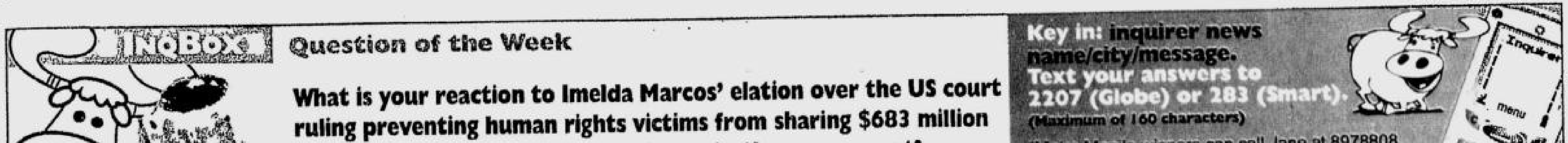

INQBOX
Question of the Week
What is your reaction to Imelda Marcos' elation over the US court ruling preventing human rights victims from sharing $683 million in Marcos assets that was turned over to the government?
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WORLD CUP OF GOLF

Course gives big field the jitters

GEORGE, South Africa—The long rolling fairways and greens of the Links course at Fancourt Country Club Estate are making all the players nervous ahead of the inaugural Women's World Cup of Golf starting on Friday.

"It's a tough, tough course," said British Open champion Karen Stupples. "There is a lot of water and marshy areas that you have to be aware of."

The 6,424-yard (5,876-meter) links-style fairways will place a premium on accuracy for the two-women teams from 20 nations.

"You really have to place the ball well off the tee, and even more so with your second shot into the greens because the greens are so tricky," said Stupples.

"Anything that is not on the correct side of the pins is going to leave you some unusual putts, or even roll off the green and leave you with a tricky chip."

The par-73 Gary Player-designed course tested the best men in the world in the 2003 Presidents Cup when the wind came up, and with wind and rain forecast for the opening day, Stupples thinks Fancourt will play similar to her Royal Cinque Ports home course in Kent, England.

It's that familiarity with the vagaries of links play which will give Stupples an edge when it comes to individual scoring—but the format means she will have to mesh with English countrywoman Laura Davies to get into a position to win the $1-million (euro-780,000) event.

The three-day, 54-hole competition starts with better-ball foursomes; day two is alternate shot, and strokeplay on Sunday with both scores to count.

Davies brings a pedigree to the competition which makes Stupples the envy of many: 112 career top-10 finishes, victories in 37 tournaments in a professional career that started in 1985, and a win and six top-10 finishes in 2004.

"I feel really comfortable playing with Laura," said Stupples. "I think our games will complement each other really well, and I think we will have a good chance."

The bookmakers have installed Australia's Karrie Webb and Rachel Hetherington as five-to-one favorites.

Webb, a former world No. 1, is relieved the alternate shot is on the second day: "We can get a feel of the course during the first-round better ball," she said. "We might have more of an understanding by the time we play the foursomes.

The reality is Webb and Hetherington know each other quite well enough.

"I have known Rachel since I was 14," said Webb. "We grew up playing amateur golf together. We played for our state, so it is good to do it for our country as well."

But the experience of Beth Daniel and Meg Mallon of the United States in team play makes them the pairing all the players will be watching.

Mallon's three 2004 victories make her one of the form players in the field, and her Solheim Cup experience with Daniel makes her dangerous.

Daniel, who holed a six-iron approach at the 388-yard (355-m) par-4 third in her practice round on Wednesday, is also pleased to have team experience (*See related story on A30*). *AP*

SPO

Mi

PHIL Mickelson blasts out of a sand trap onto the first green at the Spyglass H

Yankee Giambi sorry, but won't say for what

NEW YORK—Jason Giambi, Major League Baseball's 2000 Most Valuable Player award winner in the American League, repeatedly apologized to fans, the New York Yankees and his teammates on Thursday but refused to say why—or discuss whether he used steroids.

The Yankees first baseman came to Yankee Stadium to make his first public comments since it was reported in December that he'd told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he took steroids for at least three seasons.

"There's been a lot of distraction, definitely, over the last year, and I'm sorry for that, I really am," Giambi said. "I feel I let down the fans, I feel I let down the media, I feel I let down the Yankees, not only the Yankees, but my teammates.

"I accept full responsibility for that," he went on. "I'm sorry, but I'm trying to go forward now. Most of all, to the fans, I'm sorry. I know it's going to be hard, and I understand how they feel."

With general manager Brian Cashman, manager Joe Torre and agent Arn Tellem at his side, Giambi refused to say what he specifically was apologizing for.

"I'm sorry I can't be more candid with you guys about everything because of the ongoing legal matters," he said.

Giambi said he had not read the San Francisco Chronicle story, which cited transcripts of his grand jury testimony, and he would not say whether the newspaper's report was accurate.

"When I went into that grand jury, I told the truth," he said.

He was bothered by a parasite and a benign tumor last year, and slumped to .208 with 12 homers and 40 RBIs.

"I think we're all curious to see how he's going to rebound from everything he went through last year," Torre said. "He certainly looks better than he did." *AP*

Ex-baseball star admits using, injecting steroids

NEW YORK—Former Major League Baseball star Jose Canseco says injecting his teammates with steroids was "something so common" that he didn't give it much thought at the time.

"I injected them," Canseco tells Mike Wallace, according to a partial transcript of his upcoming interview with the "60 Minutes" television program for a segment to be broadcast Sunday.

Cuban-born Canseco talks at length about using steroids with Mark McGwire while they were teammates at the Oakland Athletics. McGwire has firmly denied using the drugs.

"The first time injecting them in (McGwire's) buttocks," says Canseco, "it wasn't like you gave it a lot of thought. It was something so common."

Canseco wrote that he and McGwire injected steroids together "often," but told Wallace that he remembered injecting McGwire only a couple of times.

The interview was to be broadcast one day before the release of Canseco's book, "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big." *AP*

Beckham thanks his fans

LONDON—England skipper David Beckham has publicly thanked fans for keeping faith in his talents despite his recent lackluster performances.

The Real Madrid star had a poor Euro 2004 tournament, which led to many observers questioning his automatic starting role in Sven-Goran Eriksson's lineup.

"Of course, there was extra pressure in the sense of what was being said about me and I don't think the criticism has been unfair," said Beckham, who was roundly applauded at Wednesday's 0-0 friendly draw against Holland in Birmingham.

"If you play well, then you take the good things that are said about you so you've got to accept what is said if you are playing badly.

"Sometimes it is slightly harsh but when you are performing at a high level, that's what you have got to take.

"But I didn't feel under any pressure myself because you know this is what I love doing.

"The support of the fans really means a lot to me. Things do get said about you and maybe that can turn fans.

"But the backing of the England fans toward me has been amazing to me for the last five years or so and I hope that continues.

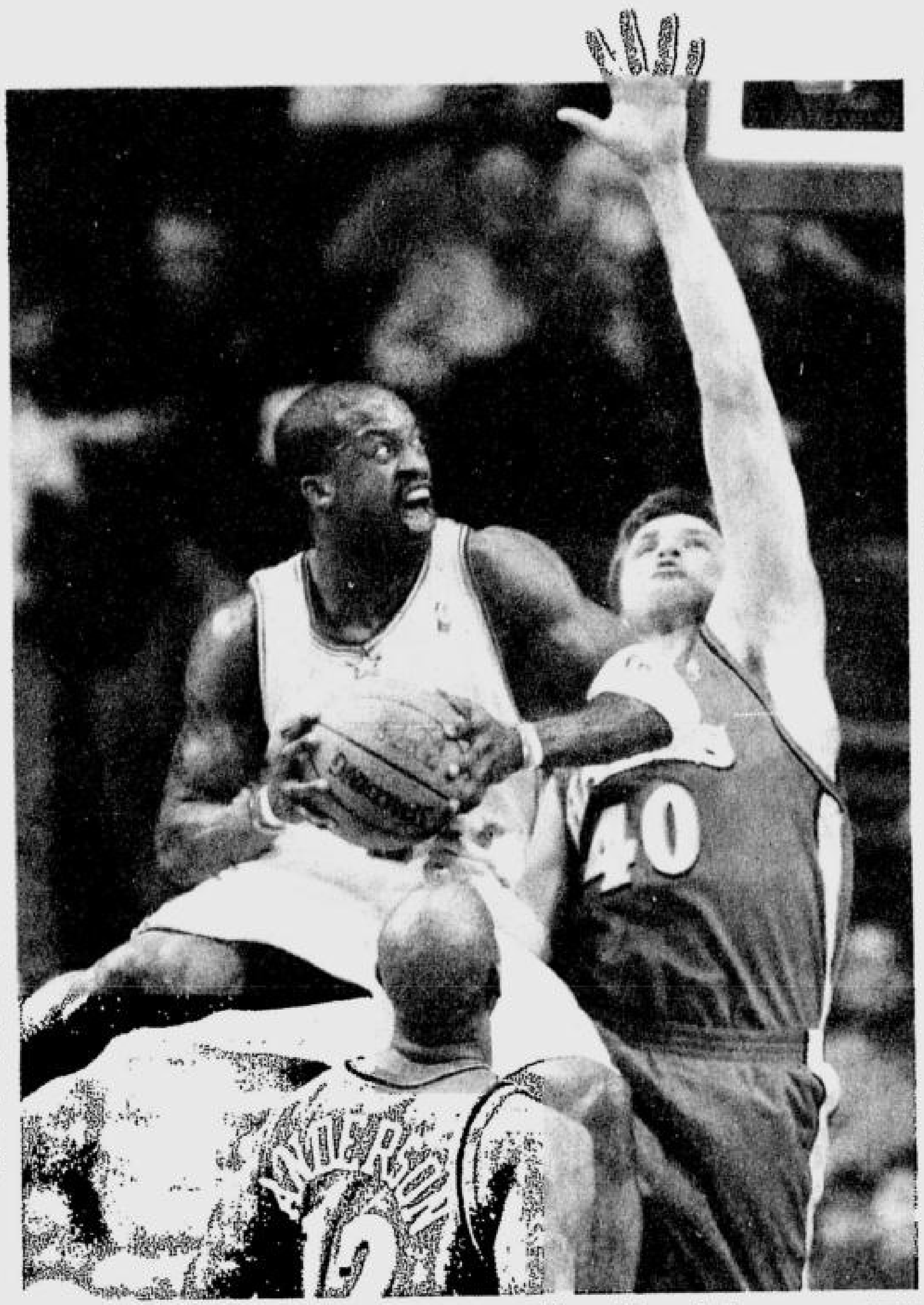
"I've also had the same sort of support from the Madrid fans for the past two seasons and I'm grateful for that as well."

Beckham has been far happier with his performances in recent weeks for Madrid and admits his confidence is high.

"For the last four weeks in Madrid I've been happy. I didn't really step back and look at my performances but I just worked harder in training. *AFP*

Pistons destroy 'n

Francis



STEVE Francis (left) goes up against Atlanta's Jason Collier and Kenny Anderson. REUTERS

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The defending champion
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"There's no comparison
lace said. "It's two d
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The Pistons, 6-1 in their l
en games, led by 14 points le
5 minutes into a game that w
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Los Angeles is 1-4 under
coach Frank Hamblen, w
placed Rudy Tomjanovich w
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Kobe Bryant went down
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Lamar Odom led the Lake
17 points.

"We're looking for son
that we can hang our hats
sistently, but we can't fin
Hamblen said. "It hurts us
to search for something
night."

Magic 101, Hawks 96

In Orlando, Florida, Stev
cis scored 11 of his 28 point

Miller suspended, 3 other King

NEW YORK—Sacramento center Brad Miller was suspended for one game by the National Basketball Association's disciplinary committee for his conduct after the Kings' 125-123 loss to Phoenix on Tuesday.

The league also fined guards Mike Bibby and Cuttino Mobley $15,000 each and forward Chris Webber $10,000 for their actions.

Miller will served his suspension Thursday when Sacramento faced and lost to the Seattle SuperSonics at the KeyArena.

Miller is averaging 15.6 points and 9.3 rebounds in 48 games this season.

On the Kings' final possession Tuesday, Webber passed to Miller for what appeared to be an uncontested basket.

But Suns center Amare Stoudemire emphatically swatted the ball away as time expired.

The Kings thought Stoudemire goal-tended the shot and showed their displeasure.

Miller berated the referees before throwing his headband and wristbands into the stands.

Webber kicked the ball into the stands.

Bibby was fined for verbally abusing an official and failing to leave the court in a timely manner.

Mobley was cited for publicly criticizing the officials after the game.

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Larios keeps super bantam belt

FRESNO, California—Mexico's Oscar Larios retained his World Boxing Council crown with a unanimous decision over Wayne McCullough in a super bantamweight battle here on Thursday.

The 28-year-old Larios was awarded the decision 116-111, 118-110 and 118-109. He captured the title in 2002 by beating Israel Vazquez.

Larios survived an early onslaught to rally and beat the veteran McCullough (27-5) at the Palace Indian Casino.

Larios (55-3-1) made his eighth title defense another successful one landing big punches late in the fight.

The 34-year-old McCullough pressed the action over the first half of the fight but was unable to hurt Larios, who began to seize control of the fight in round seven.

OSCAR Larios and Wayne McCullough (left) trade punches. AP

Always known for his ability to go the distance, McCullough was able to do just that.

Larios, who has won his last 16 fights, could be in line for a bout with Joan Guzman. *AFP*

Maurismo in quarters

PARIS—Second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo beat Mary Pierce, 6-4, 6-3, in an all-French, second-round match between former champions at the Open Gaz de France on Thursday.

Marion Bartoli upset fifth-seeded Nathalie Dechy, 6-4, 6-2, in another all-French encounter.

Mauresmo and Pierce both won the title once and finished runner-up twice. But they hadn't met in five years, and Mauresmo won for the third straight time to lead their head-to-head 3-2.

In the quarterfinals, Mauresmo next meets No. 8 Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, who routed Jelena Jankovic of Serbia and Montenegro, 6-4, 6-0. Bartoli will face Nadia Petrova of Russia.

French teenager Tatiana Golovin also advanced to the last eight for the second straight year after beating lucky loser Sanda Mamic of Croatia, 6-3, 6-4. *AP*

AMELIE Mauresmo eyes the ball before returning t

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ckelson fires record 62, grabs Pebble lead

ill. Golf Course. REUTERS

PEBBLE BEACH, California—Phil Mickelson birdied six of the first eight holes and broke the Spyglass Hill course record Thursday with a 10-under 62 that gave him a three-shot lead in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

He took advantage of pristine conditions on the Monterey Peninsula, with brilliant blue skies and only a trace of wind that made Pebble Beach, Spyglass and Poppy Hills so tame that more than half the 180-man field broke par.

One birdie came out of a bed of ice plant on the fourth hole. Another came on the 527-yard seventh hole, when Mickelson hit a 6-iron off the cart path to the edge of the green and easily got up and down. He hit driver on the 325-yard 17th hole that left him 8 yards from the front of the green, leading to a tap-in birdie.

"Honestly, I've never driven it this far," Mickelson said.

A 15-foot birdie on the final hole gave Mickelson a three-shot lead over Davis Love III, Charles Howell III, Kevin Sutherland, Daniel Chopra and Hunter Mahan.

It was the largest first-round lead at this tournament since Tom Watson led by three in 1978. Mickelson's 62 was two shots better than the previous course record at Spyglass, last set by David Berganio four years ago.

"A 62 is good at Bermuda Dunes," Sutherland said. "A 62 at Spyglass is a whole different story. That's an amazing round."

Sutherland didn't see it; he shot his 65 at Poppy Hills.

"We were on the 18th tee, and it's amazing to say this, but we heard a roar," Sutherland said. "That's got to be a couple miles away. We heard it pretty easily, and I thought it can only be one person. I'm not sure it was him, but a 62 at Spyglass? I'm sure it was."

It's all starting to run together for Mickelson, the Masters champion who already is making a lot of noise. It started with his 59 in the Grand Slam of Golf in Hawaii last November, then the 60 last week in the FBR Open.

"The biggest thing for me is I've been driving the ball a lot longer than I did last year," Mickelson said. "And all that wedge work that I did last year and continued this year... I'm starting to have a lot more wedges in. I'm taking advantage of it. I'm able to make a lot more birdies now."

There was no shortage of those Thursday in some of the best conditions at Pebble in recent memory.

"Even in a practice round, I've never seen the weather this good around here," Howell said.

He also took advantage with a bogey-free round at Pebble Beach, highlighted by an 80-foot bunker shot that grazed the edge of the cup on the 18th for a tap-in birdie.

Mike Weir had a 6-under 66 at Poppy Hills, while British Open champion Todd Hamilton was among those at 65.

Defending champion Vijay Singh played five groups behind Mickelson at Spyglass, and wound up 11 shots behind after opening with a 73, only his second time over par in his last 21 rounds at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Mickelson now heads to Poppy Hills, which features five par 5s and is the easiest course in the rotation.

"It's important that I keep pushing," Mickelson said. "I'm fortunate to get off to a good start, but my mind-set is I still have to go out and shoot low rounds." *AP*

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RICHARD Hamilton and Carlos Arroyo (left) now share more than just Detroit's backcourt duties. Arroyo is playing in his second game since breaking his nose in their game against the New York Knicks on Jan. 29. Hamilton always wears a mask due to having his nose broken more than once. AP

fourth quarter, including a game-deciding 5-meter (17-foot) shot with 17 seconds to play to lead the Magic over Atlanta.

Hedo Turkoglu added 24 points, and rookie Dwight Howard had 15 points and 20 rebounds for the Magic. Howard became the first rookie since Tim Duncan in 1997-98 to record two 20-rebound games in a season.

Antoine Walker led Atlanta with 25 points.

SuperSonics 115, Kings 107

In Seattle, Antonio Daniels scored 14 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, helping Seattle to its third victory this season over Sacramento.

The Northwest Division-leading Sonics won their fourth game in a row, while the Kings dropped their third straight.

All-Stars Ray Allen and Rashard Lewis led the way for the Sonics with 34 and 23 points, respectively, but Daniels, Seattle's valuable reserve point guard, shined in the final period while playing the entire 12 minutes in place of starter Luke Ridnour.

Peja Stojakovic led the Kings with 28 points, while Cuttino Mobley had 23 points and Chris Webber had 19 points and nine rebounds. *AP*

Blast deals Madrid's Olympic bid big blow

MADRID, Spain—Madrid Mayor Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon said Thursday that a car bomb detonated by suspected Basque separatists in the Spanish capital a day earlier had damaged the city's bid to stage the 2012 Olympic Games.

The Basque armed group "ETA has hurt, hurt us badly," Ruiz-Gallardon said on the daily El Mundo's web page.

"They knew what the consequences would be in Madrid in relation to the IOC's decision about the 2012 Games," he said. "To deny it would be stupid. Our obligation is to convince the IOC members that Madrid in August 2012 will be an absolutely safe city."

The mayor was speaking a day after a car bomb blamed on ETA exploded a short walk from Madrid's Ifema convention center, a proposed venue for six sports, including badminton and weightlifting, in the Madrid 2012 bid.

The explosion, which slightly injured 43 people, came three days after IOC inspectors wrapped up a four-day tour of the city.

A Madrid bid spokesman on Wednesday said that while his organization was concerned, they didn't think the bomb would affect their chances.

Madrid is bidding for the games along with London, Moscow, New York and Paris. IOC voting members are to select the host city on July 6 in Singapore. Prior to the vote they will be presented with a report on each city by the team of inspectors.

"The vote itself comes down to individual members and it is impossible to say how such an event could be taken into account by them," IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said at the IOC meetings in Turin, Italy. "What should be focused on is the evaluation commission report, which will cover the issues of security. We do sadly live in a world where tragic events like this can happen in any city."

Security is a major issue for the IOC given the rise in international terrorism. The inspectors intently questioned Spanish officials on police plans for the games, should the city be selected.

Besides ETA's decades-old campaign of bombings and shootings, Spain has also come under attack by suspected Islamist radicals. Nearly 200 people were killed in four commuter rail bombings on March 11 last year.

Madrid bid organizers claim the inspection trip was a success and that they had convinced the IOC officials that Madrid's candidacy was the best. The inspectors said they could make no appraisal of the bid before they visited the other candidate cities. *AP*

Racing chief defends Ferrari F1 dominance

LONDON—World motorsport head Max Mosley defended Formula One champions Ferrari and Michael Schumacher on Thursday against accusations that their dominance was suffocating the sport.

The International Automobile Federation (FIA) president suggested instead that rival teams posed more of a threat through their failure to beat the winners of the last six constructors' championships.

"I would not say that they (Ferrari) are killing the sport," he said at a lunch with reporters in London before the season starts in Australia on March 6.

"What I would say is that Williams and McLaren, and to a lesser extent Renault and BAR, are killing the sport because they are doing a rubbish job.

"That's the truth of it. It's not up to Ferrari to lose, it's up to the others to win and all they've got to do is catch up," he added.

"The worst thing now is they go around suggesting that we in some way help Ferrari. Well, we'd have to be mad to help Ferrari.

"If I could slow Schumacher down legitimately, I would. But you can't... it's up to engineers in the other four teams, and the team principals, to get the job done."

Schumacher has won the last five drivers' titles and the German is chasing an unprecedented eighth crown this year at the age of 36.

But Ferrari have been strongly criticized over the years for failing to let their two drivers race each other freely, with Schumacher clearly enjoying number one status.

Former champions Williams and McLaren finished fourth and fifth respectively last year.

Ferrari are at odds with the other nine teams over cost-cutting proposals and the sport's commercial future at a time of open power struggle between Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone and carmakers.

The Italian team broke with the other carmakers last month in abandoning plans for a rival series and agreeing to extend an existing commercial agreement with the FIA and Ecclestone.

"There is no doubt that Ferrari, at least in the last 10 years, have been worth more than the proportion they get of the money that's been distributed among the teams," said Mosley.

"I honestly believe that one of the great fallacies of Formula One is that Ferrari has got the biggest budget," he added.

Mosley suggested that Williams, McLaren and BAR spent more on putting two cars on the starting grid than Ferrari. *Reuters*

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Jordan wants own team

RALEIGH, North Carolina—Michael Jordan wants to own an NBA team.

"I'm being patient, waiting for the right situation," Jordan told The New York Times.

"Basketball is still my passion. If the right situation comes up, it will happen."

Jordan, who became one of the world's top sports names while leading the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles, has been out of the league since being fired from a front-office job with the Washington Wizards in 2003.

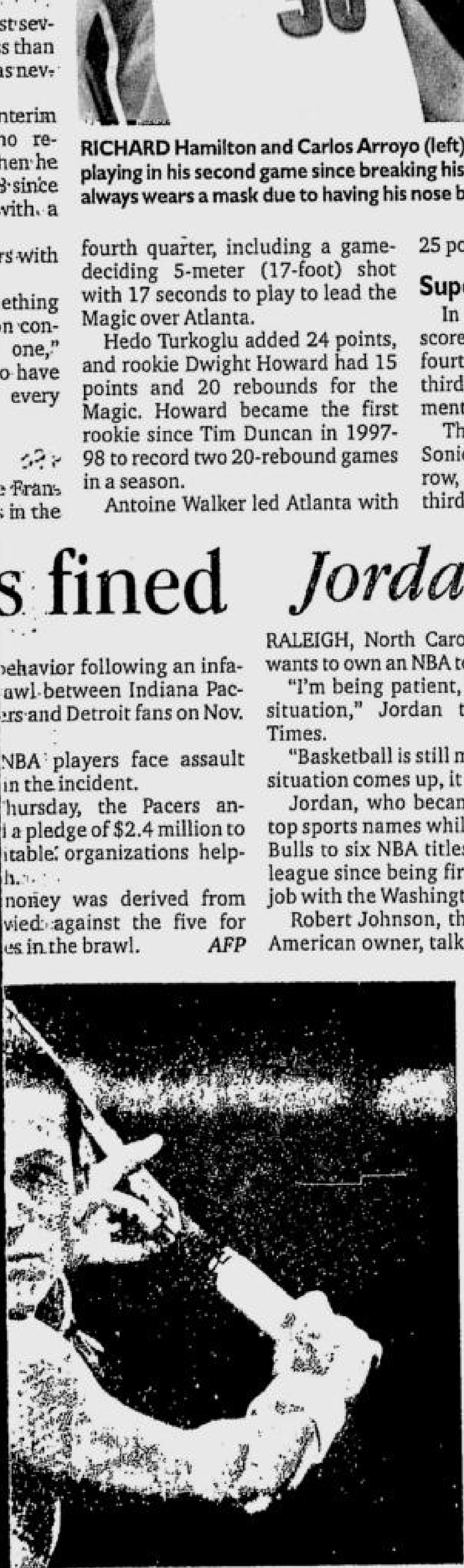
Robert Johnson, the NBA's only African-American owner, talked to Jordan last year about a job with the Charlotte Bobcats, an expansion team.

Jordan decided against it, he said, because he wanted to be a majority owner of a team and make the final decisions.

NBA commissioner David Stern has said he would welcome Jordan as a team owner.

"I'm not afraid of an existing situation," Jordan said. "I'm not afraid of an expansion situation.

"Financially it has to fit, and economically it has to be worthwhile. You have to look at how it benefits you, as well as what you can provide for that team." *Reuters*



Mary Pierce during their second-round match. AP

Roddick, Agassi advance

SAN JOSE, California—Top-seeded Andy Roddick went the distance to reach the SAP Open quarterfinals Thursday, beating South Korean Lee Hyung-taik, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2, behind 17 aces.

"I'm not going to sit here and lie to you guys and say I'm feeling great," Roddick said. "I've been marginal. I'm just going to keep battling. I'm kind of down, but I'm still in the tournament. I know 24 other guys who would like to still be here."

Second-seeded Andre Agassi also moved into Friday's quarterfinals with a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Kenneth Carlsen earlier Thursday.

In the late match, Lee dictated the pace in the second set—a rare feat against Roddick, whose inconsistent play hurt him in the middle set before he regained his composure to put the match away. Roddick committed only two of his 22 unforced errors in the decisive set.

"I wasn't necessarily being more aggressive than usual," Lee said through an interpreter.

Roddick, No. 3 in the world and the defending champion here, has beaten Lee in all but one of their eight career meetings. They last played at Memphis in 2003, when Roddick rallied from one set down and held on in a third-set tiebreaker.

Agassi overcame a slow start to defeat Carlsen and reach the SAP Open quarterfinals for the 12th time in 13 appearances.

Aside from one hiccup on his record, Agassi is playing solid tennis so far in 2005.

Seeded second and ranked 10th in the world, Agassi beat Carlsen for the third time in as many meetings to improve to 6-1 this season. But it took the 34-year-old American some time to get comfortable against the left-hander and his slicing groundstrokes.

Agassi began attacking Carlsen's backhand, late in the first set, and the strategy eventually wore down the 31-year-old Dane who's ranked 88th in the world.

"Good idea, wasn't it?" Agassi said, smiling. *AP*

ANDY Roddick blasts a forehand to Hyung-Taik Lee. AP

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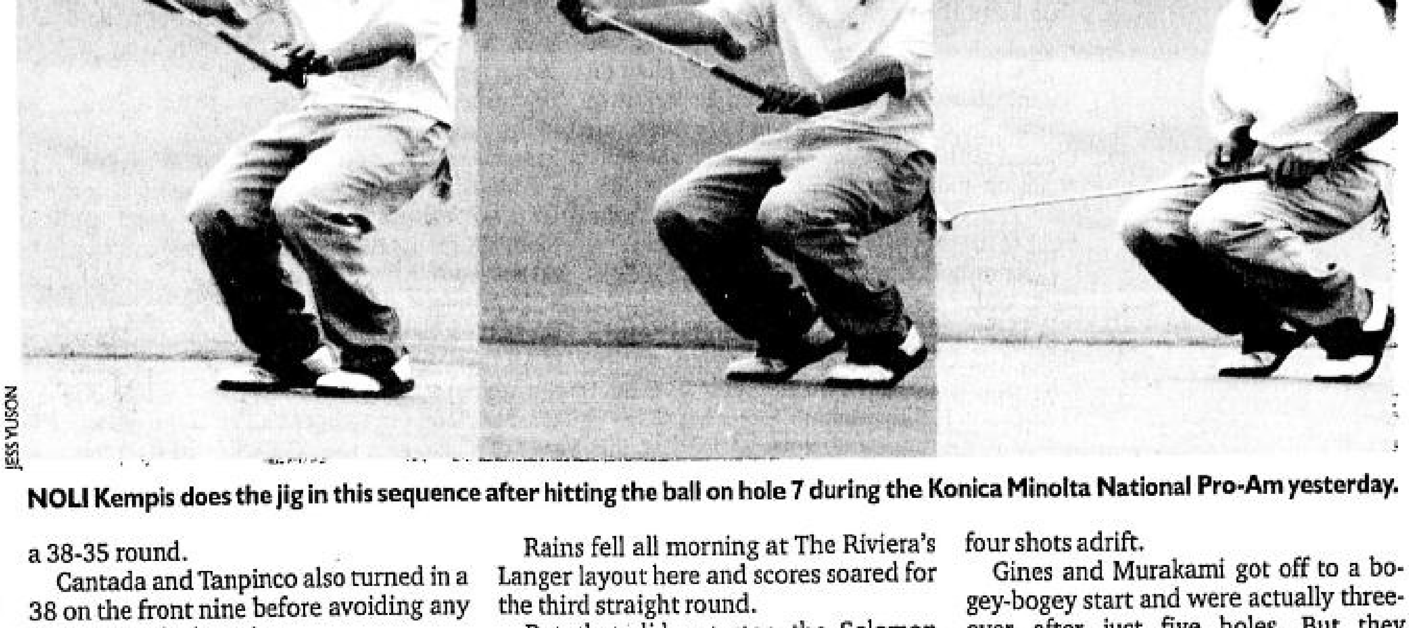
Pucay-Roy new pro-am leader

By Musong R. Castillo


JESS YUSON

NOLI Kempis does the jig in this sequence after hitting the ball on hole 7 during the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am yesterday.

SILANG, Cavite—Mars Pucay and amateur partner Jose Roy bucked two double bogeys and a bogey on the front nine yesterday to salvage a two-over 73 and wrest a one-stroke lead heading into the final 18 holes of the Konica-Minolta National Pro-Am.

As playing conditions improved when the rains stopped near midday, Pucay and Jose played the final nine at one-under 35, finishing birdie-par-par for a three-day 220 total, one ahead of the defending champion team of Gerard Cantada and JR Tanpinco.

Cantada-Tanpinco turned in a 72 after ballooning to a 77 Thursday, bouncing back to occupy solo second spot, two shots clear of Japanese Tomokasu Yoshinaga and Yusuku Takao, the second-round leader who assembled a 77 for 223.

"We made some clutch birdies in the back nine," said Roy, a 43-year-old lawyer and dean at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila college of law.

"Mars and I played great as a team out there today, considering the conditions."

The leading tandem birdied the two par-5s in the final nine with Pucay knocking in a curling 12-footer for another bird on the par-4 13th to highlight a 38-35 round.

Cantada and Tanpinco also turned in a 38 on the front nine before avoiding any mistake on the last nine.

The burly Gerard capped the inward trip with a lovely approach on the 18th that set up a five-foot birdie for Tanpinco.

Rains fell all morning at The Riviera's Langer layout here and scores soared for the third straight round.

But that did not stop the Solomon Gines-Artemio Murakami combine from checking in with the best round of the tournament—a level 71—to vault back in serious contention in fourth spot, just four shots adrift.

Gines and Murakami got off to a bogey-bogey start and were actually three-over after just five holes. But they bounced back strong with birdies on Nos. 6, 7, 10, 11 and 16 to negate two more shots they dropped on 14 and 18.

Koreans Lee. Siong-ki and Jung Hyung-yu turned in a 73 for solo fifth at 235, with the Ruel Banares-Marvin Dumandan duo sixth at 227 after a 74 and Richard Abaring and Jose Inigo submitting a 79 for 229 and solo seventh.

Noli Kempis-Kim Chang-hoi (80), Erwin Arcillas-Tonlits Asistio (78) and Chu-Chu Martinez-Raymund Sangil (78) tied for eighth spot with 231 totals to round out the top 10.

The team of national swing coach Roger Retuerto and Erwin Vinluan shot an 81 and the brothers tandem of Dave and Jessie Hernandez turned in a 77 to tie for 11th spot at 232 along with three others.

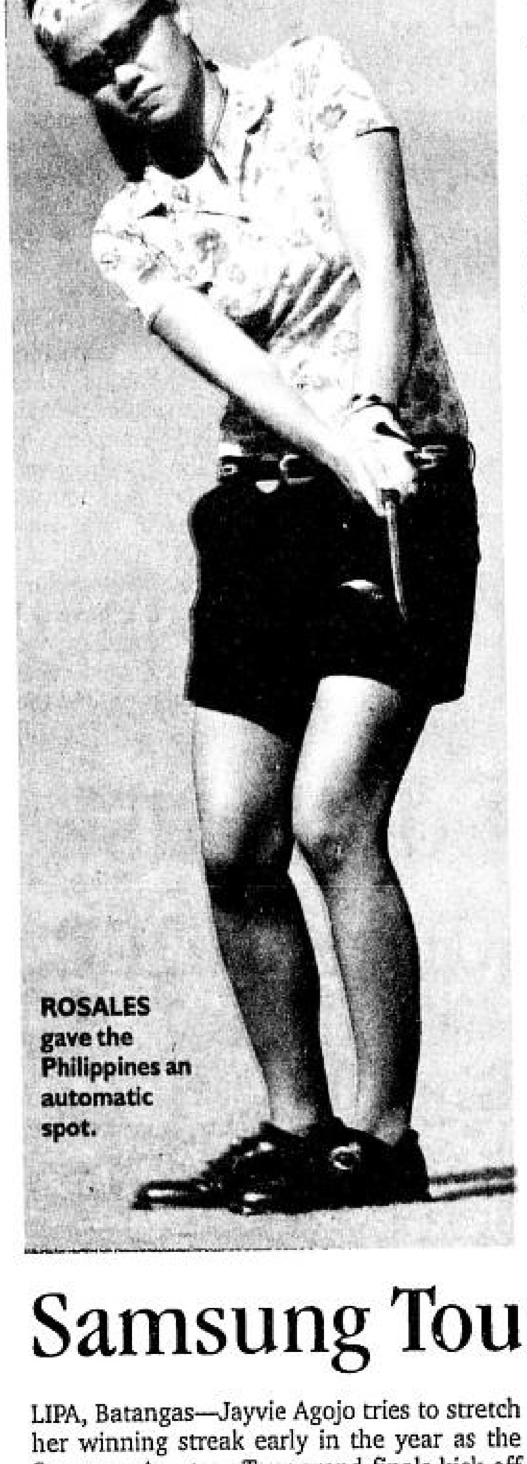
Amateur ace Juvic Pagunsan and father Juanito did not make up ground, staying at 15th spot after a second straight 79 for 233, tied with Ramil Bisera-Jay Bayron (78) and Rey Pagunsan-Robert Inigo (77).

The 54-hole cut was pegged at 239, and among the noted professional casualties were Benjie Magada, Carito Villaroman, Cookie La'O and Jun Cedo.

The champion pro goes home with P200,000 in prize money out of the P1.5 million the sponsoring Konica Minolta Corp. has put up. Second place is worth P184,000 and third P175,000.

The amateur partners go home with handsomely crafted trophies.

Dorothy, Jenny carry RP flag in World Cup


ROSALES gave the Philippines an automatic spot.

DOROTHY Delasin wears the Philippine jersey again as the Fil-American teams up with Jenny Rosales in the inaugural Women's World Cup of Golf starting Thursday at the The Links, Fancourt Hotel and Country Club Estate in George, South Africa.

The unique tournament offers a $1 million purse and features 20 two-woman teams representing their respective countries.

The RP duo is paired with Scotland's Catriona Matthew and Janice Moodie in the first round.

Delasin, who had played for the RP team as an amateur, set things into motion for the RP Cuppers by sharing first place in Wednesday's pro-am with Natasha Fink of Austria and Stephanie Arricau of France at 49 points.

The former LPGA Rookie of the Year won 250 euros. Rosales posted 41 and wound up in 23rd spot.

Rosales' finishing in the top 10 of the LPGA Tour money list gave the Philippines an automatic spot in the World Cup. She had the option to choose her partner (even an amateur) and went for Delasin.

Co-sanctioned by the LPGA and the Robe di Kappa Ladies European Tour, the Ladies World Cup is the first-ever truly worldwide team competition and consists of a three-day, 54-hole competition with a different format on each day.

The first 18 holes will be bestball. Play shifts to alternate shots the next day and on the last day, it will be an aggregate of the two players' medal rounds. The winners will be determined by combining each team's scores for all three days.

Every country participating is capable of winning, but heading into the event Australia, England, Sweden and the United States have to be among the favorites.

Karrie Webb and Rachel Hetherington, who collectively have 38 LPGA career wins, represent Australia and have played this game before. In 2000, the duo won the Women's World Cup of Golf in Malaysia when it was an unofficial event on the LPGA's schedule.

The flag bearers for England are long-hitting Laura Davies and Karen Stupples. Davies, with mammoth drives, a quick wit and 20 LPGA victories, is a legend of the game. Stupples has only two wins—one being the Weetabix Women's British Open—but they both came in 2004. After finishing sixth on last year's season-ending money list, Stupples is on top of her game, with Davies forming a formidable duo.

Carin Koch and Sophie Gustafson team up for Sweden. With Gustafson's length off the tee (led the Tour in 2004) and Koch's accuracy (17th in 2004 in greens in regulation), it would not be a surprise to see them near the top of the leaderboard on Sunday.

The most tenured team in the field is from the United States. If Meg Mallon and Beth Daniel can get things going, they could walk away with the title.

Mallon had a phenomenal year in 2004 winning three times and earning her second US Women's Open championship. Daniel is an LPGA Tour and World Golf Hall of Fame member and is one of the Tour's hardest workers. The tandem represents 51 LPGA career wins.

Samsung Tour finals fires off at Malarayat

LIPA, Batangas—Jayvie Agojo tries to stretch her winning streak early in the year as the Samsung Amateur Tour grand finals kick off today with the ladies competitions at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course here.

The 18-year-old Agojo, who had won the Philippines Ladies Open at Manila Golf and the Faldo Series in Hong Kong the past two months, will be carrying the favorite's role in the Class A division of the short 36-hole tourney.

And Agojo can expect another tough grind with familiar rivals set to give her a run for her money.

Set to duel with Agojo in the event serving as the culmination of a nationwide eliminations are former national players Milet Villaroman, Aileen Yao and Lina de Guzman, Gigi Frokjaer, Chihiro Ikeda and jungolf standout Matet Salivio.

Paulina Sotto, the fast-rising daughter of comedian-television host Vic, and fellow jungolfer Cyna Rodriguez are in the Class B field.

The tourney is also supported by Philippines Airlines as the official airline, Tokyo Tokyo, C-Lium Fiber, Gatorade, adidas TaylorMade, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and Rogin-E as its other sponsors. Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite are media partners.

PAL flew in the regional entries from their various locations while the newly opened Mt. Malarayat Inn is providing them free accommodation.

The 72-hole showdown for the centerpiece men's championship division gets going tomorrow until Wednesday. The other categories in men's play will be held Tuesday and Wednesday.

Jun Bernis, the reigning national amateur champion, should be the man to beat in the men's championship after the multi-titled Juvic Pagunsan begged off due to personal reasons.

The men's field is also packed with jungolfers. IG Gutierrez is among the finalists in Class A while Marco Olives and Gabby Villareal are competing in the Class B finale.

"Everybody's excited and we expect a lot of surprises during the week," said Boy Blue Ocampo of the organizing Professional Sports Management Group. "The course is in its best shape and the winds will certainly affect scoring."

Mt. Malarayat will be very hard to tame with the winds blowing hard and Ocampo expects the winning scores very close to par. The ladies will play the Malipunoyo and Makulot nines while the men will tackle the Lobo-Malipunyo combine.

Bumgarner Driver of the Year

TALENTED and gorgeous Michelle Bumgarner emerged the unanimous choice as Driver of the Year recently in the 2nd Golden Wheel at the Manila Polo Club.

Bumgarner, who's backed up by Samsung, Oakley and Standard Insurance, got the votes for being the reigning Asian Karting Queen for the third straight year. She bested three male rivals—Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli, Asian motocross runner-up Glenn Aguilar and Philippine Formula Three champion Tyson Sy.

"Her feat undeniably proved the world-class Filipino talent in the Asian region," said Golden Wheel Award Organizing chair Johnny Tan.

It was the second Golden Wheel Driver of the Year plum for Bumgarner in the event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Phils., PCSO-Casino Filipino and San Miguel in cooperation with Denso, Bridgestone, Standard Insurance and Caltex. She shared it with Aguilar and 2003 Asian Formula Three champion Pepon Marave last year.

The other Golden Wheel awardees were Glenn Aguilar (motocross), Jolet Jao (Shell motorcycle roadbikes), Vip Isada and navigator Aries Ilagan (rallye), Alex Perez (rallycross), Nelson Pamintuan (drag racing), Daryl Flores (slalom), Timtom Gempesaw (4x4 off-road), Jody Coseteng (national touring car), Ivan Carapiet (Formula Toyota), Matteo Guidicelli (Shell Karting) and Tyson Sy (Formula 3).

Guidicelli got the most number of trophies for the night with five. He also won trophies as Rotax Max Junior and Open class champion of the Shell Superkarting Series, and bagged both Junior Karter of the Year and Karter of the Year awards.

Jao also copped the Rider of the Year award in Superbikes, Mike Tuason was named Clubman Karter of the Year, Oliver Aquino emerged Rookie Karter of the Year while Joey Perry took the Yokohama-Miata Cup award.

MICHELLE Bumgarner (fifth from right) emerged Motorsports Driver of the Year in the recent Golden Wheel Awards at the Manila Polo Club. From left: Ivan Isada, representing his father Vip Isada, Alex Perez (rallycross), Glenn Aguilar (motocross), Jolet Jao (Shell motorcycle roadbikes), Timtom Gempesaw (4x4 off-road), Jody Coseteng (national touring car), Ivan Carapiet (Formula Toyota), Tyson Sy (Formula 3), Daryl Flores (slalom), navigator Aries Ilagan (rallye), Nelson Pamintuan (drag racing) and Matteo Guidicelli (Shell Karter of the Year).

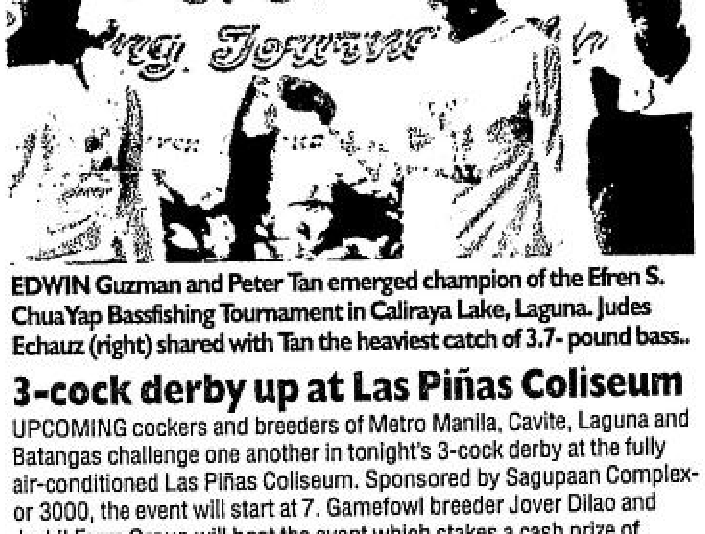
SPORTSWATCH

Tolentino flags off Tagaytay races

MAYOR Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino will flag off beginning at 8 a.m. today more than 100 cyclists for the road and mountain bike races coinciding with Tagaytay City's celebration of its Pista ng Pag-ibig. National riders, among them Warren Davadilla, Arnel Quirimit and Santy Barnachea, will lead the field in the road race event that will virtually cover the route recommended for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games slated later this year. Vietnam SEA Games gold medalist Eusebio Quionones and bronze medalist Frederick Feliciano are also expected at the mountain bike side of the cycling races that highlight sports activities—the others being a mini-marathon and boxing competition—accompanying the three-day Pista ng Pag-ibig. Tolentino has become a staunch supporter of sports, and cycling and chess have become tops in his priorities in as much as playing satellite host to the SEA Games is concerned.

Tan-Guzman bass fishing champ

PETER Tan and Edwin Guzman topped the recent Efren S. Chua-Yap Bass Fishing Tournament in Caliraya Lake, Laguna. Tan and past PGFF president Judes Echavuz shared the heaviest catch with 3.7-pound largemouth bass. PGFF president Bobby Garcia said the A .H. Lingayo Surveying and Fairways Cargo Movers Corp. Bass Fishing Tournament is set at Lumot Lake, Cavinti. For details, call Eileen at 634-9187.



EDWIN Guzman and Peter Tan emerged champion of the Efren S. ChuaYap Bassfishing Tournament in Caliraya Lake, Laguna. Judes Echauz (right) shared with Tan the heaviest catch of 3.7- pound bass..

3-cock derby up at Las Piñas Coliseum

UPCOMING cockers and breeders of Metro Manila, Cavite, Laguna and Batangas challenge one another in tonight's 3-cock derby at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. Sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, the event will start at 7. Gamefowl breeder Jover Dilao and Jzehil Farm Group will host the event which stakes a cash prize of P300,000. Entry fee is P5,500. Entries will be accepted until 2 p.m. and interested parties may call 8731040 and 8743910 for details. Meanwhile, the 2-Cock Ulutan/Fastest Kill Challenge, which stakes a guaranteed prize of P1.3 million, is set on Feb. 17, 18 and 19. Entry fee is P3,300. Awaiting the fastest kill champion is a new house and lot near SM Bacoor, courtesy of VA Aguilar Properties. Derby hosts Abu Centeno and Renato Shio said the event will start at 8 a.m. The duo recently promoted the 298-entry Fastest Kill Challenge also at LPC.

NCA presents 7-cocker Tuesday

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) presents another 7-cock derby on Feb. 15 and 17 at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. About 40 participants are invited by derby hosts Rudy Alabano, Patrick Puno, Alex and Gerry Escalona and Mayor Nic Patenia. Entries must be submitted on Monday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Araneta green gate. For inquiries, contact 9113101 and 9112928. The NCA announced that there will be no derby on Feb. 22 and 24 to give way to another occasion at the Big Dome. Cockfighting action resumes on March 1 and 3. Last Thursday, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio emerged as solo champion in the NCA derby after his top-rated entry, PEBR Complexor 3000 Mulawin IV tallied six wins and one loss. Meanwhile, cockers and breeders who wish to join the NCA stag derbies in September must have their cockerels screened and wingbanded anytime from March 1 to 31. For appointment, contact 9113101 and 9112928 (look for Dong Lamuste or Gloria Avena).

Red Lions, Maroons trip Champions foes

GAMES TOMORROW (*Cebu Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—University of Southern Philippines vs University of Mindanao
5 p.m.—University of Cebu vs West Negros College

By Jasmine W. Payo

SAN BEDA and the University of the Philippines outclassed two reigning collegiate champions yesterday at the start of the Collegiate Champions League at the San Beda College Gym.

Jerome Paterno finished with 24 points and 20 rebounds to lead the San Beda Lions over National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) champion University of Manila, 85-79.

Earlier, the UP Maroons routed the reigning Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) titlist Emilio Aguinaldo College, 78-55.

UP, a last-minute replacement to University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) champion De La Salle University, displayed a balanced offensive led by veterans Josant Cervantes and Toti Almeda.

San Beda and UP thus remained in contention in the US-NCAA knockout style tournament that features the country's top collegiate basketball teams.

The Lions will face the University of the East Warriors in the next round, while the Maroons will battle the Letran Knights.

San Beda trailed in the early periods but pulled a strong finish to overcome the gritty UM Hawks.

The Lions also leaned on the offensive efforts of Arjun Cordero, Jeff Bombeo and Yousif Aljamal.

Cervantes and Abby Santos dominated the paint to lead the UP Maroons to an early 18-2 advantage.

But Niño Songco sparked the EAC Generals' rally to pull within three points, 20-17, in the second quarter.

The Maroons got their acts together to push the lead back in double figures, 42-27, at halftime.

"We're not able to check Songco because we don't have our big men," said UP coach Lito Vergara. "But I told my wards to let Songco free."

And Vergara got what he wanted as Songco finished with a game-high 24 points but got little help from old reliables Bong Melecoton at Ronjay Buenafe.

The Maroons, who even played without the hefty trio of Ira Buyco, Kenneth Robin and Bruce Quebral, even extended the gap by as many as 27 points, 78-51.

Starting point guard Marvin Cruz also sat out after cutting his chin.

Varsity action shifts to Cebu City tomorrow for the two-day Visayan leg with the University of Southern Philippines clashing with the University of Mindanao at 3 p.m., and University of Cebu battling West Negros College at 5 p.m.

The scores:

First game

UP 78—Cervantes 15, Almeda 14, David 13, Ortega 12, Santos 9, Agbayani 7, Ferrer 4, Gomez 4, Epres 0, Bienbenida 0, Ibañes 0.

EAC 55—Songco 24, Buenafe 7, Rivera 6, Dominon 6, De Guzman 4, Melocoton 4, Sabado 2, Du 2

Quarters: 18-11, 42-27, 60-42, 78-55.

Second game

SBC 85—Paterno 24, Cordero 14, Bombeo 14, Aljamal 14, Angeles 7, Cruz 5, Maggay 4, Hudencial 2, Soriano

UM 79—Regalado 22, Gomez 22, Santiago 12, Litonjua 7, Vidanes 6, Bernados 3, Delos Trinos 3, Santiago 2, Salem 2, Napiza 2

Quarters: 19-20; 39-43; 60-64; 85-79.

FANS crowd the sidelines during the UM-San Beda Champion's Cup encounter yesterday. REM ZAMORA

Filway chess on today; Paragua heads entries

PARAGUA PDI PHOTO

GM-CANDIDATE Mark Paragua and GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. lead the cast of the Filway-Time Life Open chess tournament starting at 10 a.m. today at the 2nd floor of the Starmall Shopping Complex in Mandaluyong City.

Other favorites vying for the top purse of P30,000 in the Open section are GM Nelson Mariano II, reigning National Open champion NM Darwin Laylo, reigning Asian 3.2a zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo and fellow IMs Jayson Gonzales, Ronald "Onat" Bancod, Fernie Donguines, Richard Bitoon, Petronio Roca, Barlo Nadera and Chito Garma.

Also entered are NMs Mario Rebano, Samuel Estimo, Winston Silva, Rolando Nolte, Mirabeau Maga, Adrian Ros Pacis, Bob Jones Liwagon, RP five-time executive champion Jenny Mayor and 11-year-old whiz kid and newly installed Fide Master Wesley So.

In the distaff side, Woman International Masters Beverly Mendoza and Sheerie Joy Lomibao, WNMs Kathryn Ann Cruz and Christine Castellano are among the top contenders for the P10,000 champion's purse.

For inquiries, call or text tournament director Willie Abalos at (0921) 6219898.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Go Teng Kok and Mandaluyong City administrator Ernesto Victorino, representing Mayor Neptali Gonzales, will make the ceremonial moves with Filway Marketing Inc. CEO/president Hector O. Tagaysay, Mandaluyong City Chess Association chair and City Councilor Epifanio de Guzman and 2004 World 8th ball runner-up Marlon Manalo. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Bata, Django, Lee Vann gain Asian tour seeding

FILIPINO billiard master Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Lee Vann Corteza have gained outright seeding in this year's San Miguel Beer (SMB) Asian 9-Ball Tour slated to start with the Singapore leg on March 4-6.

Reyes is the overall champion in the first two seasons of the country-hopping event while Corteza is the Manila leg winner last year.

Bustamante, on the other hand, is still seeking a breakthrough win in the Tour but has managed a Top 10 finish in the overall classification.

Puyat Sports boss Aristeo G. Puyat, who announced the automatic seeding of the three yesterday, said one slot in the 32-player field has been reserved for the champion of the Best of the Best All-Filipino Open scheduled Feb. 21-27.

The other stops of the only ranking tour in Asia are Jakarta (April 1-3), Kaohsiung (April 29-May 1) and Manila (June 3-5).

The event serves as qualifying for this year's World Pool Championship.

Meanwhile, Puyat said the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) under president Ernesto Fajardo is busy holding the qualifying events for the RP team set to compete in the Manila Southeast Asian Games late this year.

The noted businessman/sportsman added that reigning World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan, who is based in Canada, is almost certain to don the country's colors in the biennial meet, having already secured dual citizenship from the Bureau of Immigration. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

₱1-M All-Filipino Billiard Open

REIGNING World Pool champion Alex Pagulayan will join Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante as the major draws of the The Hope P1-Million All-Filipino Billiard Open, a 9-Ball tournament for television to be held on Feb. 21-17.

The main tournament will be televised live at the studios of Channel 13 from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. daily on Feb. 21-25. The semifinals and final on Feb. 26 and 27 will be televised at Bellevue Hotel, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa.

"This production will strictly be a television event for the benefit of Filipinos who love billiards," said Aristeo G. Puyat, president of Puyat Sports which is promoting the tournament with Jemah Television.

The qualifying round is scheduled on Feb. 13-16 at Bowling Inn and Billiard Center on Taft Avenue, Manila. There will be no TV coverage of this round.

The champion will receive P500,000 and the runner-up P200,000. The prize money has been scaled down to 16th place.

The tournament will serve as one of the qualifying events for the Filipino players hoping to represent the country in the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games to be held here in November according to an agreement with Ernie Fajardo, president of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines.

Pimentel doubtful starter for Game 2

GAMES TOMORROW (*Rizal Memorial Coliseum*)
1:30 p.m.—Letran vs PSC
3:30 p.m.—UST vs La Salle

WITH his top spiker and MVP derby pacesetter Roxanne Pimentel a doubtful starter, UST coach August Sta. Maria hopes to motivate the rest of the Tigresses in giving their best shot to prevent the La Salle Lady Archers from snaring the Shakey's V-League crown at the Rizal Coliseum tomorrow.

The Lady Archers, cashing in on Pimentel's absence in the deciding fifth set, took the opener of the title playoff Thursday, fighting back from two sets down and completing a gripping 27-29, 17-25, 25-22, 25-23, 15-7 victory.

That put the Taft-based spikers to within a win from avenging their first conference title loss to the Tigresses last year and re-installing themselves as the top collegiate volley squad following their domination of the UAAP wars the last two years.

Game Two is set at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow with the Lady Archers raring to wrap up the short series and the Tigresses hard-pressed to send it to a winner-take-all match Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Letran likewise tries to finish off guest squad Philippine Sports Commission in their own best-of-three playoff for third in the 1:30 p.m. opener of the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza and co-presented by Dunkin Donuts, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives, Smart and PLDT with Mikasa and Accel as official volleyball and outfitter, respectively.

The Lady Knights also needed five sets to edge the Lady Legends, 25-14, 22-25, 25-12, 11-25, 15-8.

"*Nakakalakad na si* Roxanne *pero hindi pa rin* 100 percent if ever she would play tomorrow," said Sta. Maria, referring to his prized spiker who struck for 30 points Thursday until she was forced to sit out the rest of the match due to an ankle injury.

"It really hurt them," said La Salle coach Ramil de Jesus, referring to Pimentel who, with Mary Jean Balse, form Santo Tomas' dreaded "Twin Towers."

The Lady Tigers seemed all set to take the series opener after winning the first two sets. But things changed in the third when the Lady Archers, behind Mayette Carolino and Maureen Penetrente, took charge for the team.

"I just hope the other players will step up for us to win," added Sta. Maria, who is again expected to lean on starters Venus Bernal, Kate Co Yu Kang, Vida Gutierrez, Rubie de Leon, Joanna Torrijos and Balse.

He also hopes to draw some surprises from Ma. Lourdes Palomo, Karen Co Yu Kang, Melissa Cruz and Bridget Inoferio.

The UST mentor also mentioned the Tigresses need to play good defense throughout, particularly on the net where the likes of noted La Salle hitters Penetrante and Carolino are expected to dominate.

Big Valentine's bike race in Baguio City

THE COUNTRY'S top cyclists assault the mountains in the 2005 Panagbenga Classic, a 205-km Baguio-to-Baguio chase which fires off on Monday, Valentine's Day, from the city hall of the summer capital.

Over 80 elite riders, led by 2004 Tour champion Ryan Tanguilig and Marlboro '96 king Victor Espiritu, compete for honors in the lung-busting one-lap event that stakes over P100,000 in cash prizes.

Mayor Braulio Yaranon, who's staging the event to enliven tourism in the summer capital after health secretary Manuel Dayrit has declared the city free of meningococcemia, will fire the starting gun that will send the race snaking through Pugo, La Union, Agoo, Aringay, Caba, Bauang, Naguilian, Burgos, Sablan, Rosario, and Kennon before winding up at Burnham Park.

Immigrations commissioner Al Fernandez, who donated cash prizes for the summit winners, and former Pangasinan Gov. Oscar Orbos, are among the guests.

Competitors also include the Pitaki Boyz of Jacy Garcia, Guam Olympian son of race director Jesus Garcia Jr. The race will provide a preview to the deciding mountain runs in this year's Tour ng Pilipinas.

TATAP
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NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS
POOL SELECTION

TABLE TENNIS POOL: The Philippine table tennis pool will undergo two months training and monthly rankings to select the final five men and women who will represent the country in the 23rd SEA Games.

Amit gains, faces Say in semifinals

By Marlon Bernardino
Contributor

RUBILEN "Bingkay" Amit, the 2002 Singapore Open eight-ball champion from Taguig City, registered back-to-back wins yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the first women's qualifying round for the Philippine billiards team to the Manila Southeast Asian Games at the Anson Arcade Mall in Coronado Lanes, Makati City.

The 23-year-old Amit, a customer care representative, downed Ruby Marces of Manila and Heidi Balao of Pangasinan with similar 9-3 scores to barge into the final four.

The soft-spoken Amit earlier hacked out a 9-8 win over Angeline Halili of Makati City in her opening match.

Amit will meet Magda Say of Quezon City for a finals berth while Marian Basas of Davao City and Johanna Dee of Makati City will collide in the other semifinal duel scheduled today at 10 a.m.

Say advanced at the expense of Lyn Estrada, Basas made it over Tony Anne Nobleza of Marikina City and Dee moved up after topping Lyka Fernando. All three winners prevailed by similar 9-8 scores.

Estrada earlier trounced Joann Kim (9-6) and Rowena Peralta of Makati City (9-8) while Say hurdled Shiela dela Cruz (9-5) and Jocelyn Carlos of Manila (9-2).

Fernando had posted similar 9-8 victories over Evelyn Bosque of Pasig City and top seed Iris Ranola of Zamboanga City while Dee clobbered Shirley de Guzman (9-3) before nipping Nina Angeles of Antipolo City (9-8).

Basas had eliminated Paula Angeles of Antipolo City (9-0) and Ces Marquez of Makati City (9-3) while Nobleza ousted Marnie Santamaria of Manila (9-5) and Helen Hang of Makati City.

The women's qualifying event, conducted under a race-to-nine knockout format, is organized by the Billiard and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) under president Ernesto Fajardo and Puyat Sports boss Aristeo G. Puyat.

Tournament director Rolly Vicente said four qualifying events will be held before the RP team is chosen.

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Berlin filmfest kicks off 11-day cinematic bonanza

BERLIN—European productions play the starring role at the Berlin Film Festival, which opened yesterday with a 19th century epic exploring the controversy of kidnapping pygmies from Africa to Europe kicking off the 11-day bonanza.

More than half of the 22 films competing for the Golden and Silver Bears are from Europe, with France taking the lion's share, and movie buffs have some 350 movies to choose from overall before the 55th Berlinale wraps up on Feb. 20.

But, while 14 of the films in competition for the top prize are European, Africa is a major theme in the festival: There are two films about the Rwandan genocide, and a South African adaptation of Bizet's opera, "Carmen," shot in a township in the Xhosa language called"Carmen in Khayelitsha."

Most important

Among the celebrities expected to put in an appearance at the festival—Europe's most important after Cannes and equal to Venice—are the stars in the opening period drama, "Man to Man," Joseph Fiennes of "Elizabeth" and Kristin Scott Thomas of "The English Patient."

Oscar-winning French director Regis Wargnier said he chose the story of a group of Scottish anthropologists abducting two pygmies to Britain in the 1870s to find out whether humans and apes are linked because "we are still living in a racist era."

"Man to Man" is one of 17 films in competition which will screen for the first time in the German capital. The Hungarian-German-British picture, "Fateless," based upon the book by Nobel laureate Imre Kertesz portraying the fate of Budapest's Jewish community under Nazi occupation, was added as a last-minute entry.

Autograph hunters will be on the lookout for Glenn Close, Catherine Deneuve, Keanu Reeves, Will Smith and Kevin Spacey, though organizers are stressing the openness of the festival rather than its star power.

"We are the public's festival," said its director Dieter Kosslick, who is shepherding the Berlinale for the fourth year. "In Cannes, it's more exclusive."

Jostling for the Golden Bear for best film are the family drama, "Kong que" ("Peacock") by China's Gu Chang Wei ("Farewell My Concubine"); a Japanese sword-fighting love story, "Kakushi Ken - Oni no Tsume" ("The Hidden Blade"), and a German-Spanish burlesque on soccer obsession, "One Day in Europe."

Germany walked away with the Golden Bear last year for the gripping cross-cultural relationship drama, "Head On." It is represented with three films and one co-production, while the United States has three films in the running. *AFP*

FIENNES. Heads cast of European festival's opening movie, "Man to Man."

There's romance in Judy Ann's eyes

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

SANTOS. No such thing as an ideal guy.

JUDY Ann Santos maintains her wholesome image by playing TV's superheroine, "Krystala." The role requires hard work and commitment, but she is unfazed because she loves scuba diving and mountain climbing.

"Adventurous *ako kapag kasama ko ang kuya* (Jeffrey) *ko. Umaakyat kami sa* Mt. Banahaw every Holy Week. I like rough sports. *Ayoko ng* tennis, *mas gusto ko yung may nararating na bundok.* I love going to the gym."

Her initial dream of donning a fishtail to play Dyesebel has been dashed because Claudine Barretto beat her to it. But playing a heroine like Krystala gives her fulfillment. "*Puro sina* Jose Rizal *at* Emilio Aguinaldo *lang ang ginagawan ng istorya. Gusto kong ipakita na may sariling paninindigan din ang mga babae,*" she intones.

Underdog

Playing the underdog and shedding buckets of tears in "Esperanza" and "Mara Clara" have endeared Judy Annr to the masses. But she really prefers to deliver witty and bubbly lines. She enjoyed doing "Isusumbong Kita sa Tatay Ko" (with the late Fernando Poe Jr.) and "Basta't Kasama Kita" (with Robin Padilla) because she played feisty and strong-willed women in those movies.

She likes doing romantic, feel-good movies. "My favorites are 'Romy and Michelle,' and 'Austin Powers.' 'Sleepless in Seattle' is romantic. *Kahit hindi nagkikita sina* Meg Ryan *at* Tom Hanks, *nararamdaman mo yung kilig.*"

A self-confessed homebody, Judy Ann collects candles and pig figurines. She hates to be disturbed, especially if she's resting. "Sanctuary *ko ang kuwarto ko*—it's simple and homey," she beams.

If Judy Ann could have three wishes fulfilled by her fairy godmother, she would wish for: A happy family, continuous success in her acting career, and for

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SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Andy Matining: "It's Valentine month once again. Any tips on which romantic films to watch or rent?"

Glad to oblige, Andy. We can think of hundreds of romantic movies to recommend—from memorable tearjerkers (Wong Kar Wai's "In the Mood for Love," Leo McCarey's "An Affair to Remember"), sweeping historical dramas (Michael Curtiz's "Casablanca," Ang Lee's "Sense and Sensibility," Anthony Minghella's "The English Patient"), unconventional love stories (William Wyler's "Roman Holiday," Blake Edwards' "Breakfast at Tiffany's), to feel-good talkies (Richard Linklater's "Before Sunrise" and "Before Sunset"),

Little-seen gems

Unforgettable mindbenders (Lars Von Trier's "Breaking the Waves," Minghella's "The Talented Mr. Ripley"), little-seen gems (the River Phoenix starrer "Dogfight," "Someone to Watch Over Me," starring Tom Berenger and Mimi Rogers). A current film about love and betrayal you musn't fail to see: "Closer," topbilled by Julia Roberts, Jude Law, Natalie Portman and Clive Owen.

Three years ago, the American Film Institute released its list of "The Most Romantic Films of All Time," a collection of movie titles that counted down, as AFI director Jean Firstenberg describes, "America's most heart-pounding films—romantic movies that viscerally affect an audience." Those flicks mirror the loves and losses of the common man.

Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman's 1942 romantic heartbreaker, "Casablanca" (which features the timeless tune, "As Time Goes By") topped the AFI list. It was followed by Victor Fleming's "Gone with the Wind" (1939), starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh as the film's star-crossed lovers;

Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins' musical, "West Side Story" (1961), starring Natalie Wood and Richard Beymer; Audrey Hepburn's utterly charming, Academy Award-winning debut, "Roman Holiday" (1953), with a dashing Gregory Peck; the five-hanky weeper, "An Affair to Remember," starring one of Hollywood's greatest heartthrobs, Cary Grant, and rom-com sweetheart Deborah Kerr.

Ultimate tearjerker

Sixth on the list is Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford's "The Way We Were" (1973); David Lean's epic, "Dr. Zhivago" (1965), with Omar Sharif and Julie Christie; James Stewart's Christmas staple, "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946); Arthur Hiller's ultimate tearjerker, "Love Story," starring Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw, and—surprise!—Charlie Chaplin's "City Lights," the Little Tramp's finest film, about a man who is sent to prison after taking advantage of a drunken millionaire so that a blind flower seller can have an eye operation.

REDFORD AND STREISAND. Ill-fated romance in "The Way We Were."

Curiously, a lot of these films don't have the obligatory "happy ending"—proof enough that we are suckers for sad love stories, too.

In the same year (2002), the Blockbuster video retail chain released the result of its all-time "Most Romantic Movie Moments" survey. Heading the list is a scene from "Dr. Zhivago," when Sharif and Christie are at the frozen country estate, where he writes her a poem.

This is followed by scenes from "Out of Africa" (when Robert Redford washes Meryl Streep's hair by the river); "Ghost" (when Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore are molding clay);

"An Affair to Remember" (when Grant walks into Kerr's bedroom, and realizes that she was the cripple who bought his painting), and "Casablanca" (the final scene when Bogart tells Bergman that she has to get on the plane: "I'm no good at being noble, but it doesn't take much to see that the problems of three little people don't amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world. Someday, you'll understand. Here's looking at you, kid.").

Moments

Among the must-see romantic films and movie moments that we strongly recommend are: "Jerry Maguire," starring Tom Cruise and Reneé Zellweger ("You complete me!" Need we say more?); "Sleepless in Seattle," with Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan; "When Harry Met Sally," starring Ryan and Billy Crystal; "Pretty Woman" (a hooker played by Julia Roberts gets swept off her feet by her knight in shining Gere); Woody Allen's "Annie Hall," with the fantastic Diane Keaton;

Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour's "Somewhere in Time" (Barry Manilow's cloying lyrics from "Somewhere Down the Road" best sum up the movie: "We have the right love at the wrong time..."); Nicolas Cage

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Presented by: Genesis Entertainment
Featuring Nanette Inventor, Carlo Orosa, January Isaac, Roxie and Tina Turner (Pam G)

4 PM, Playzone
Going Bulilit Mall Show
Presented by: ABS-CBN

February 14, Monday
Happy! Happy! Starstruck Lovestruck
Featuring GMA 7's Starstruck Batch 1 and Final Four
Hosted by: Jolina Magdangal and Dingdong Dantes
7 PM - 8 PM, Activity Center

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(One receipt per person per day only)
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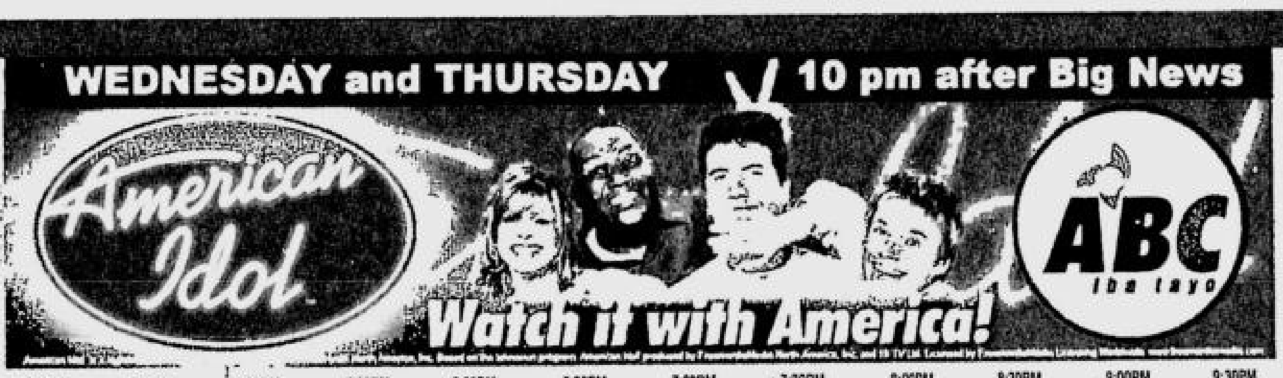
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE Saturday, February 12, 2005



WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY 10 pm after Big News
American Idol
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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek			Y Speak		Nginig The Hidden Files		TV Patrol		Magandang Gabi Bayan		Star Cinema Presents			Home Along The Airport		Kontrobersyal		Sports Unlimited
NBN	Value Vision		Value Vision			GSIS Member's Hour		Yan Ang Pinoy		Gold & Glory In Greece		Search For The 1st Tanduay Billiards Player		To Be Announced			Business & Leisure		
ABC 5	Smart TV	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown		Loren		Diretsahan		Viva Box Office				Sing Galing		Maverick & Ariel	ABC Cinema		
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar	Bitoy's Funniest Videos			Extra Challenge		Imbestigador		Idol Ko Si Kap			Tales Of Horror	
RPN 9			Biyaheng Langit	JR News	Kids TV	Hanapbuhay Overseas		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		7 Days		JAG		2002 Laureus Sports Award				Money Talks	
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Japan Video Topic		Home Shopping Network		Amerika Atbp.		V League				Bitag		In This Corner		Ugnayang Pambansa	
Solar	Tough Enough	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				Wwe Heat		Wow		Slamball		UFC Recall				Thunder Box	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	All Grown Up	My Dad The Rock Star	Drake & Josh	Yakkity Yak	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Presents		Top Of The Pops	MYX Remakes	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Club MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		MYX Live!	
ETC		Dateline		The Today Show		Saturday Night Live		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For A Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Elimidate	Change of Heart
Cinema One	Sagot Kita Mula Ulo Hanggang Paa				D' Uragons				My Movie				Mistah				Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon		
Studio 23								Sports TV	Game Plan	7th Heaven	Boston Public	Gilmore Girls	The Bachelor (8.40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				Reel Deal
AXN		The 4400		The 4400		The 4400		WRC 2005: Rally XS	Rated X	Now See This (Season II)	Now See This (Season II)	Ripley's Believe It or Not		Alias (Season III)		Anaconda			
Star World	Action Man	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Miami Vice		Adventure Inc		Roswell		Dark Angel		TNA Wrestling/ One Night Only! Rod Stewart In Concert		World's Worst Drivers Caught On Tape 1		Dog The Bounter	Cops	The Kumars At No. 42	Goodness Gracious Me
CNN	Diplomatic License	World News	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	CNN Reports: Highlights of MTV "Asia Aid Concert"		World News	Design 360	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart. Global Edition	World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Big Bite Night				Animal Olympians		Creature Feature				Saturday Unlimited				Big Bite Night			
Solar Sports		Copenhagen Masters MD Final		ATP Heineken Open '05 SFinals2	Sounds of the Finals		NBA Inside Stuff	Boxing Salita vs. Martinez					NBA TV Daily,	NBA Fan Fav: New York @ Miami '97					NBA Inside Stuff
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	HGTV Special		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Dale Plata	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	Brini Maxwell Show	Royalty A-Z		Modern Girl's Guide	E! True Hollywood Story		Look For Less	BTVR
HBO			White Oleander (3.40 PM)				Fatal Woman			The Frighteners (7.10 PM)				Cat In The Hat			The Juror (10.20PM)		
Star Movies	Just Married (2.25 PM)			First Blood			Home Alone			The Hot Chick (7.15 PM)				Bruce Almighty			Van Wilder: Party Liaison		
Cartoon Network		The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Atomic Betty	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Xiaolin Showdown	Party Wagon			Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Zoids: Fuzors	Time Squad	Harvey Birdman (11.15PM)	Justice League
ESPN						2004 Skins Billiards C'ship NJ USA		Eng. Premier League Preview	Motorsport Asia	NBA Game: Nuggets @ Cavaliers					NBA Game: Mavericks @ Kings				
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina's Secret Life	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Viva S Club	American Dragon				Mr. Bean	Lion King 3 Hakuna Matata			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Tuck Everlasting	
Cinemax	Cinema Secrets III Ep 11 From Comics To Cinema	Ihaka: Blunt Instrument			Silent Cry (4.45 PM)				Federal Protection (6.20 PM)			Mad Dog And Glory			Empire Of The Sun				
Hallmark Channel		Picking Up & Dropping Off				Plainsong				Virtual Mom		Tattoo, A Love Story			Midsomer Murders: Ring Out Your Dead				
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Ultimate Cars	Building The Ultimate	Unsolved History				Wild Discovery				Rides				Extreme Discovery	
MTV Philippines		Non-Stop Hits		One Bad Trip	Cribs	MTV Rockid	Globally Dismissed	MTV Upgraded	Non-Stop Hits	MTV Screen	MTV Urban Beats	Spring Break	Mola-MTV Asia: Kelly Clarkson	Asia Aid Red Carpet	MTV Asia Aid			Non-Stop Hits	
Sports Plus						Acc Basketball North Carolina @ Florida St.				Bikini Destination	NFL Gameday	WTA L.A. C'ships: S. Williams vs. Dementieva				AT&T Pebble Beach Nat'l Pro-Am Day2			
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3.15 PM)	G.K. Chesterton	My Little Angels	The Donut Man	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Black And Roman Catholic	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass		Angelus (10.15PM)	The Church And Culture Today	Life on The Rock Encore	

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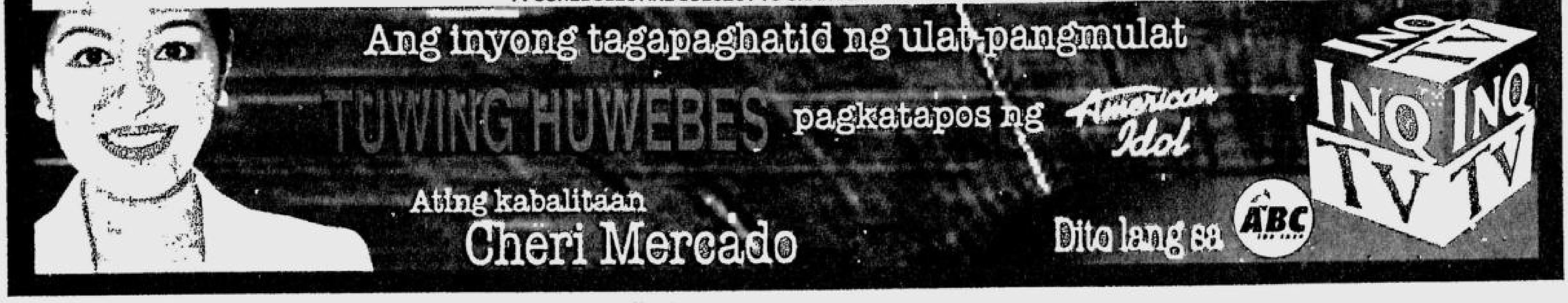
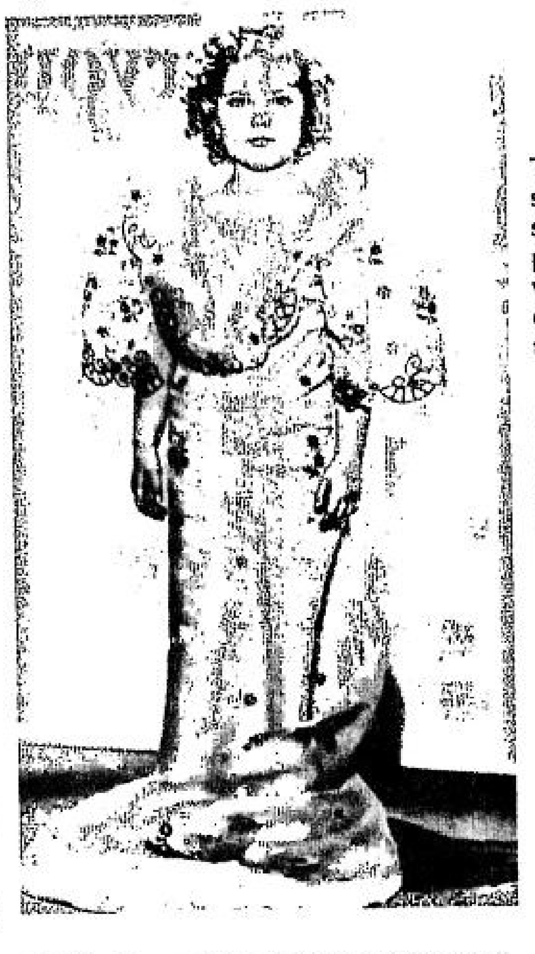


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
Ating kabalitaan Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

Has Shirley Temple been to the Philippines?

ONCE in a while, a reader really makes our day. Sometimes, Loi Landicho sends us one of his really droll humor pieces, psychologist Lorenzo Abacan shares insights on how TV is warping the values of young televiewers, Bebeng Sevilla writes her brief but telling notes on acting, and other letter writers or callers add their astute comments to other ongoing discussions about the arts and entertainment scene, both here and abroad.

Recently, we received another choice if unexpected contribution to that continuing dialogue, this time from reader Vic Alcala. The contents of his brief letter blew us away, because it turned out that he was writing about US child star Shirley Temple's heretofore unknown Philippine connection—of all things!



TEMPLE. Child superstar is shown wearing a pint-sized version of the traditional *terno.*

Pictures

Mr. Alcala: "As I was cleaning my cabinet, I ran across a half-page newspaper article on Shirley Temple, complete with pictures, which you published in 2003. In bold letters, the article's title cited Shirley as the 'most famous movie moppet of all time.'

"You are right. I can still remember when even little boys had a crush on her. Baby dolls were made to look like her. Mothers would curl their daughters' hair so they would resemble cute, bubbly Shirley.

"For my part, I can still whistle her song, 'On the Good Ship Lollipop,' despite the fact that I'm already 74 years old.

"I wonder if Shirley is still alive. After all, she was born in 1928 . . .

"But the major reason I'm writing you is to know if she ever came to the Philippines. The photo I'm enclosing here explains why I'm asking that question: It's a shot of Shirley wearing a traditional Filipina dress!

"By the way, this picture was given to me by my childhood girlfriend many years ago."

Question

Well, Mr. Alcala, your question—and that photograph, which we're reproducing here for the delectation of our readers—threw us for a loop. We asked our friend and colleague Rito Asilo to research on the Internet (we're cybernetically challenged) for the answer to your "amazing" question, and he found no mention of little Shirley's visit to the Philippines.

We asked older film people who were around when Shirley was the most popular child in the world, and they couldn't recall her coming to the Philippines. They remembered that another popular child performer, Margaret O'Brien, visited the country, but not Shirley, who will turn 77 years old in April.

So, the mystery intensifies: If Shirley didn't come to the Philippines, why is she wearing the Philippine terno in the photo sent by Vic Alcala?

A colleague speculates that some of her Fil-Am fans in the States could have gifted her with the mini-terno and taken this photo of her wearing it—but that's in the realm of conjecture.

What *is* factual is that, when she was only 10 years old, Shirley had topped, not only other child performers, but all other Hollywood stars as the number one box-office attraction!

We've seen some of her early films, and we can vouch for the fact that she was a cute bundle of talent, singing and dancing, with the aplomb and vivacity of a true professional.

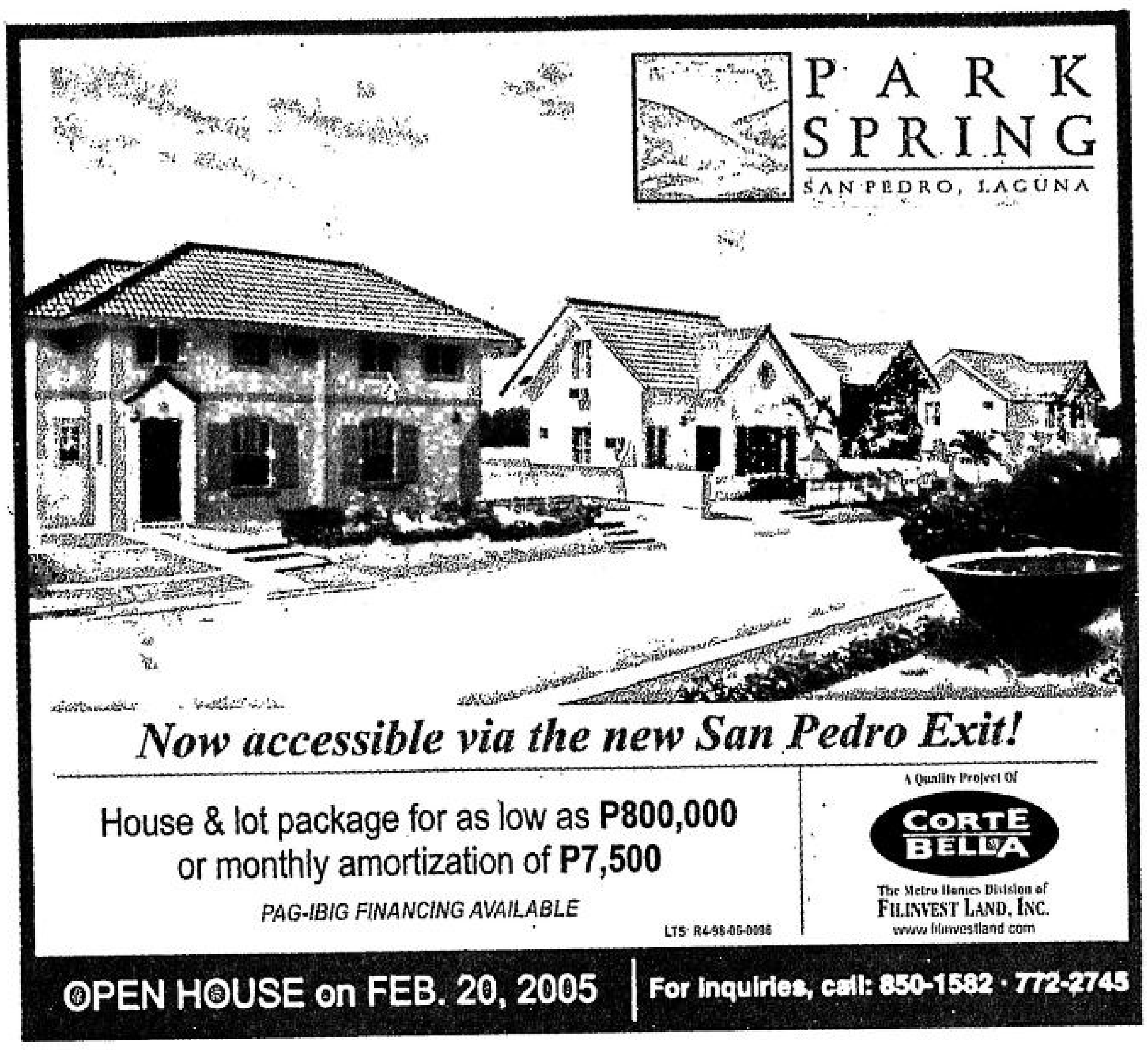
By the late '40s, however, her career as a juvenile star had pretty much run its course. She attempted a comeback on TV in 1958, but it wasn't very successful. Neither was her bid in the late '60s for the congressional seat of her home district of San Mateo, California.

Diplomatic service

However, she did much better in the diplomatic service. In 1968, she was appointed by President Nixon as US representative at the United Nations. And she served as US ambassador to Ghana (1974-76) and Czechoslovakia (1989).

Who would have thought that the perky little star-entertainer of the early '40s would end up leaving such large shoes to fill? But, Shirley's loyal fans aren't surprised.

Their logic: The movie moppet's performances were so winning, partly because there was a great deal of dedication and intelligence that went into them, and the adult Shirley's high-powered diplomatic career merely confirmed the strengths that had made themselves apparent so early in her show biz career.



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Oscar speeds up ceremony

BEVERLY HILLS—Some Oscar winners will receive their prizes in the audience this year, organizers said recently, unveiling a major shake-up in the way cinema's top awards are handed out.

In a bid to spice and speed up along the 77-year-old ceremony hosted by Chris Rock, some winners at this month's Oscars ceremony will not be invited onto the stage to receive their award when their names are drawn from the winner's envelope.

Audience

"Instead, they will be given the trophy by a presenter in the audience," said John Pavlik, director of communications of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, told AFP.

"In other categories, all the nominees will be invited onstage, and then the winner will be announced," he said, revealing another change to be unveiled at this year's ceremony.

Gil Cates, the producer of the 77th annual Academy Awards, which will be held in Hollywood on Feb. 27, announced the changes at a luncheon for 115 of this year's crop of

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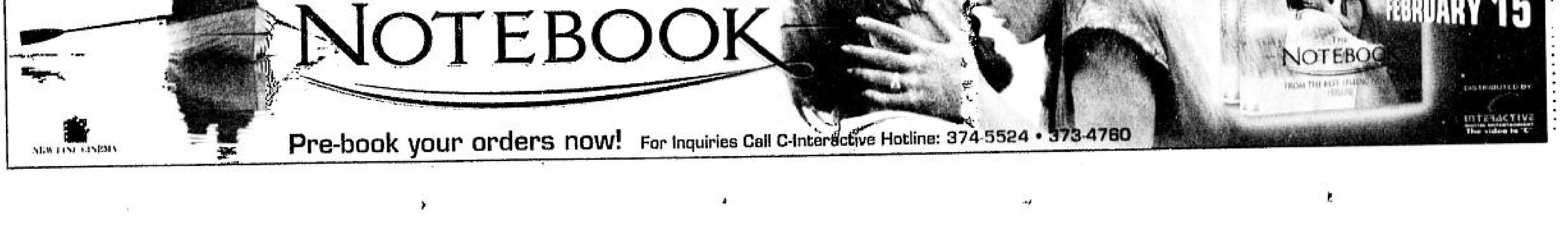

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SNEAK PREVIEW

'Desperate Housewives' on the verge of a nervous breakdown

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

THE SUCCESS of Marc Cherry's dark comedy series, "Desperate Housewives," at the recent Golden Globes and at last week's Screen Actors Guild awards further proves that the accolades that the show has been reaping are no fluke: Teri Hatcher again emerged triumphant (as best female actress in a comedy series, but this time, even her co-stars shared collective acclaim as TV's best ensemble in a comedy series).

HATCHER (AT LEFT, WITH SHERIDAN). Won her second best actress trophy at the Screen Actors Guild Awards last week.

Harried, harassed and haunted

Hatcher, who plays the fragile Susan, the single mother who looks harried, harassed and haunted (by the embarrassment of having been left by a two-timing husband for his secretary a year ago), slowly copes by acknowledging that she needs to move on. So, she sets her sights on the hunky next-door widower, plumber Mike (James Denton).

But, Wisteria Lane's voluptuous, scheming vixen, Edie (Golden Globe best supporting actress nominee Nicolette Sheridan), who also has the hots for Mike, doesn't make things easy for Susan. In a nutshell, her peripatetic attempts to catch the affable but mysterious widower's attention are hilarious and, well, fiery—she accidentally sets her "competitor's" house on fire!

Completing the desperate quintet is Gabrielle (Eva Longoria), a former Salma Hayek-type model who thought that marrying for money was the answer to her quest for a lifetime of happiness—well, she thought wrong!

Uncouth husband

Now, Gabrielle has to endure an uncouth husband who allows his big-time clients to grope his wife's backside to land some high-stakes deals for his thriving business.

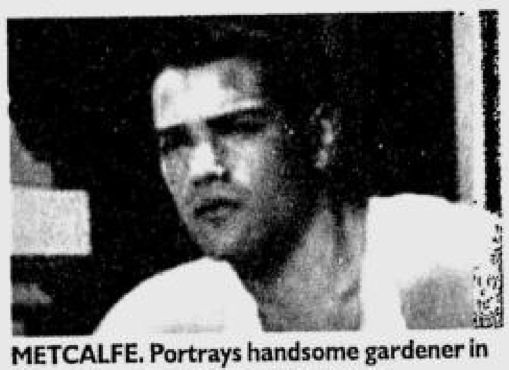
On the side, however, she hauls the "barely legal" handsome gardener (heartthrob Jesse Metcalfe) off to her bed! When her husband threatens to fire the underperforming house-help, she whisks her hubby off to a party, and returns home in a flash to mow the lawn for the errant gardener!

For all its quirky characters and even quirkier plot twists, "Desperate Housewives" offers campy fun. But, it also brilliantly examines women in various states of desperation—and how they overcome the odds. These protagonists of the female kind are flawed, imperfect individuals who, nevertheless, "try to do better." (Don't we all?) And their constant "battles," showcased in rip-roaring, occasionally disturbing scenarios, are used as fodder for introspection, inspiration and entertainment.

Rough times

For viewers, men and women alike, the series empowers by showing how women hurdle their demons while deftly capturing the continuing struggles that women face in these rough times.

As for us, we can't wait to see how the show's characters progress—or how the series can keep dishing up the goods. Meanwhile, the local TV network that gets its hands on this delightful series deserves a big hug.


METCALFE. Portrays handsome gardener in Marc Cherry's dark comedy series.

There's romance. . .

From page A2-1

world peace.

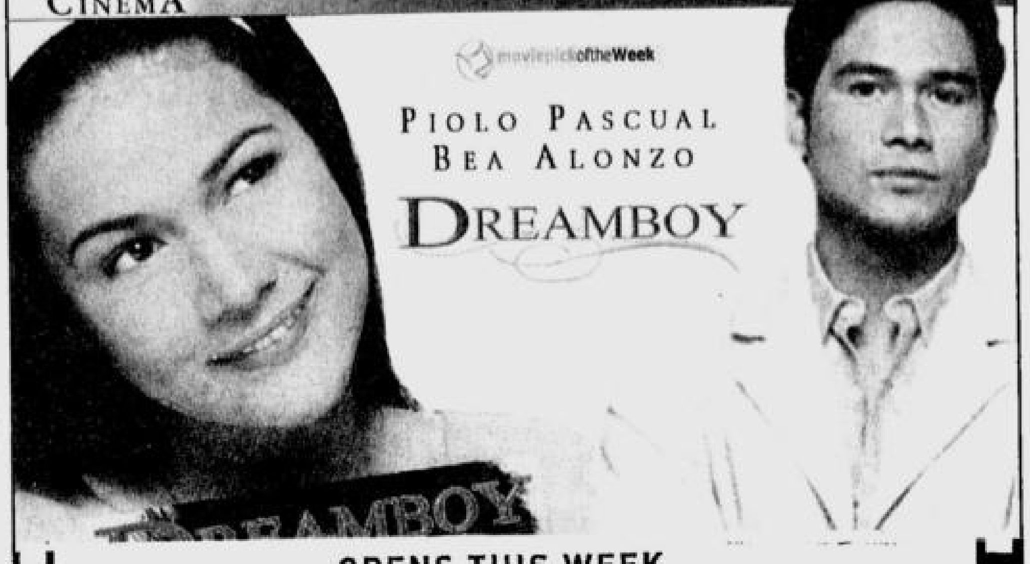
She is level-headed in her views about love and marriage. "Getting married is not easy. Getting to know a person takes time. If you plunge into marriage *na hindi n'yo pa kilala ang isa't-isa, pareho kayong mahihirapan sa* adjustment," Judy Ann reasons.

Commitment

"Marriage is a commitment, *kaya hindi ka dapat masakal*. Love, trust and mutual respect are essential ingredients for a good relationship, *kaya dapat walang* doubts . *Lahat naman ng pagtatalo ay naaayos sa mabuting usapan*," she clarifies.

Her eyes twinkle when asked about Mr. Right, though she refuses to name her special someone: "There's no such thing as an ideal guy. *Walang* perfect *na tao. Basta*, I want somebody who's smart, understanding and responsible," she says, her eyes twinkling.

SM CINEMA movietime



OPENS THIS WEEK

smcinema EXCLUSIVE

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
MTRCB RATING GP

ALFIE
MTRCB RATING R 13

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB RATING. PG 13

LET THE LOVE BEGIN
MTRCB RATING. GP

SALSA
MTRCB Rating. PG13

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1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
11:10 FS/ 11:35 MF / 1:50 / 4:05 /6:20
8:35 / 10:30 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 12:45 END

2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:20 FS / 11:50 MF / 2:35 / 5:20
8:05 / 10:25 LFS / 10:50 LMF / 1:10/ END

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5 ALFIE
6 ELEKTRA
7 KUNG FU HUSTLE
8 MEET THE FOCKERS
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 DREAMBOY
11 SHALL WE DANCE
12 SALSA smcinemaexclusive

sm city fairview
1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 ELEKTRA
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 DREAMBOY
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
9 WITHOUT THE PADDLE
10 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
11 KUNG FU HUSTLE
12 MAD HOUSE

sm city north edsa
1 ELEKTRA
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 DREAMBOY
7 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

sm city sta. mesa
1 DREAMBOY
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 MEET THE FOCKERS
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
9 DREAMBOY
10 ELEKTRA

sm city southmall
1 WITHOUT THE PADDLE
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 MEET THE FOCKERS
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 DREAMBOY
8 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
9 ELEKTRA
10 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

sm city manila
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 ALFIE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 ELEKTRA
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
7 SHALL WE DANCE
8 DREAMBOY
9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
10 MEET THE FOCKERS
11 DREAMBOY
12 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 ELEKTRA
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

sm city bicutan
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 DREAMBOY
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 MAD HOUSE
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 ELEKTRA
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

sm city baguio
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN KUNG
3 FU HUSTLE
4 DREAMBOY

sm city batangas
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 DREAMBOY
4 SHALL WE DANCE

sm city dasmariñas
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 DREAMBOY

sm city marilao
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ELEKTRA
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 DREAMBOY

sm city bacoor
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 ELEKTRA
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 DREAMBOY
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 MEET THE FOCKERS

sm city lucena
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 ELEKTRA
3 KUNG FU HUSTLE
4 ELEKTRA

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 SALSA smcinemaexclusive
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 MAD HOUSE
7 DREAMBOY
8 ELEKTRA

sm city iloilo
1 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 RESERVED
3 ELEKTRA
4 KUNG FU HUSTLE
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 DREAMBOY
7 RESERVED
8 RACING STRIPES

sm city davao
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 HELLWOLF
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 ELEKTRA
5 DREAMBOY
6 NED KELLY

sm city cagayan de oro
1 KUNG FU HUSTLE
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

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1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00
GP

2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:25, 2:25, 5:25
8:20, 11:10
PG-13

3 DREAMBOY
10:35, 1:05, 3:35,
6:05, 8:35, 11:05
GP

4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:35, 2:05, 4:35,
7:05, 10:00
GP

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ALFIE R13 12:30,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:00	SHALL WE DANCE? GP 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13 11:00,1:50,4:40,7:30,10:20
DREAMBOY GP 12:20,2:45,5:10,7:35,10:00	ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 R13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX GP 12:40,3:00,5:30,8:00,10:30

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND

starmall EDSA-SHAW
Tel. No. 726.61.50
3 Let The Love Begin
4 Flight Of The Phoenix
5 Dreamboy

METROPOLIS ALABANG star
Tel. No. 850.42.85
1 Elektra
2 Ang galing galing mo Babes
3 Let The Love Begin
4 Dreamboy
5 Flight Of The Phoenix
6 Phantom Of The Opera

starmall LAS PIÑAS
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FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50
GP

CINEMA 2
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
10:30, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10
PG13

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FEBRUARY 13 & 14	OGIE ALCASID	8:30 PM

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SHANG CINEPLEX

① ALFIE
MTRCB (R - 13)
12 15, 2.40, 5:05, 7:30, 9.55 LMF

② FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
MTRCB (GP)
11:20, 2.00, 4.40, 7:20, 10 00 LMF

③ THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB: (PG - 13)
12 20, 3.15, 6:10, 9 05 LMF

④ SHALL WE DANCE
MTRCB (GP)
12.25, 2:50, 5.15, 7.40, 10.05 LMP

PREMIERE THEATRE ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
MTRCB (R - 13) 12.30, 2:56, 5:20, 7:45, 10.10 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special Treats
Enjoy a 20% discount on Matinee Show tickets at the Cineplex, except on selected blockbuster movies.
From Monday to Friday: all Matinee Shows' screenings are scheduled before 4pm.
For more details, please see the film listing at the Shang Cineplex ticket booths or call 633-2227 or 633-7851 local 171.

*Enjoy Sweet Cinema Treats at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for every P150.00 in accumulated receipts, same day purchase of food and any Nestle drinks at the Shang Cinebar
FREE Nestle Kitkat for Premiere Theatre patrons (1 per patron).
Promo runs from February 7-21, 2005.
*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-072 Series of 2005

Regular Ticket Price
Premiere Theater - P[illegible]
(includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150

Shangri-La Plaza

Kuh evolves with her music

From page A2-7

different, and I'm willing to learn.

"*Wala naman akong* dream projects. I have some stories in mind that I would like to do. *Komedyante ako* in real life. My family also has a sense of humor. We like to cut each other down, laugh at each other and not be *pikon*.

"But I know it's difficult to direct comedy because of the timing and all, it's not as easy as directing drama. I think directing drama would be easier for me. *Kasi parang* real life *iyon*."

Prospect

At this point she gets excited over the prospect of directing good actresses and actors like Maricel Soriano, Vilma Santos, Nora Aunor, Lorna Tolentino and Christopher de Leon.

Kuh says she is willing to experiment. She plans to do a compilation album of Kundiman and recent OPM hits and call it, "Para sa Bayan Kong Mahal;" an instrumental album of her hit songs; a club remix and a coffee table book of her pictorials.

"The hardest thing for me as a singer is recording my songs. I'm very hard on myself. I have so much music in me. I feel that I have to be healthy to make my voice better. I have so much peace now. I'll never retire as a singer. It's my life!"

Oscar . . .

From page A2-3

Oscar nominees.

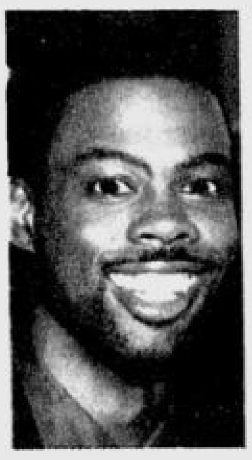
"The changes will be put in place both to save time and to allow a worldwide television audience to see every nominee," Pavlik said.

Tradition

But, the long tradition of Oscar winners rushing breathlessly—and emotionally—onto the stage to receive cinema's ultimate rewards will not be completely abandoned this year.

"Some awards will be handed out the old-fashioned way, with the winner allowed to walk down the aisle to the podium," Pavlik said.

But Cates has implored the nominees not to churn out a dreary shopping list of "thank you notes" if they win an Oscar, reminding them that up to one billion people around the world will be watching the three-hour telecast. *AFP*



ROCK. Oscar Awards host.

SeeMall!

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
THX 1 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	1 DREAMBOY
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30	2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 DREAMBOY	3 ELEKTRA	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30	3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 SHALL WE DANCE	4 DREAMBOY	4 MEET THE FOCKERS	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 SHALL WE DANCE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30	4 MADHOUSE
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX		5 SHALL WE DANCE	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 DREAMBOY 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15	5
		6 DREAMBOY		
		7 ALFIE		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
2 DREAMBOY 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Valentine Show Featuring Side A February 13, 2005	Valentines' Serenade at Food Establishments February 12-14.2005	A Book Bug's A Bunch of Treat for Heart February 11. 2005

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Valentine Show featuring Bituin Escalante February 12, 2004	Vera Wang Gown Exhibit February 17-28, 2005

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February 12 (Saturday) 3:00 PM
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AYALA CINEMAS

Piolo Pascual
and
Bea Alonzo
DREAMBOY

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*Promo period: Feb. 9 to 15, 2005
Per DTI NCR Permit No. AI - 123. Series of 2005

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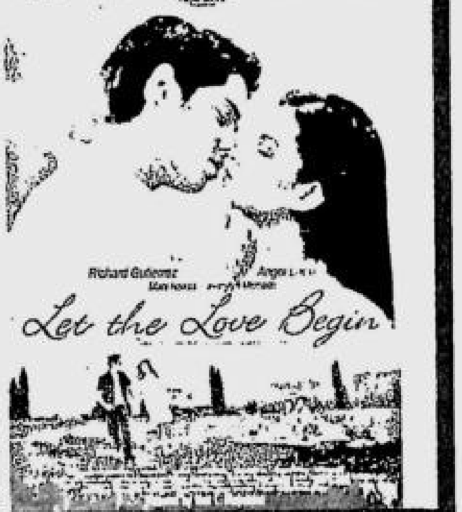
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

Bioessence Pizza Hut



Ayala Malls got more than shopping treats for Valentines Day

AYALACENTER

Ms. Bituin Escalante
February 12, 8 pm
Greenbelt 3 Park

SIDE A Band
February 13, 5 pm
Glorietta Activity Center

TOWN

Jazz music, string quartets and flowers await all diners
February 12 to 14

AYALA CENTER CEBU

Jose Mari Chan
February 14, 8 pm
Lagoon Area

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA • THX 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00	6 SHALL WE DANCE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	8 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
4 ALFIE 10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00	9 MEET THE FOCKERS 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
5 DREAMBOY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 ELEKTRA 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	10:10 1:05 4:00 6:55 9:50
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 10:20 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 ALFIE / MEET THE FOCKERS 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 SHALL WE DANCE 10:30 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	7 DREAMBOY 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SHALL WE DANCE 11:10 1:40 4.10 6:40 9:10	5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 10:25 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:30
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 12:05 2:15 4:20 6:35 9:00	6 DREAMBOY 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:15
3 MEET THE FOCKERS 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00	7 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30
4 ELEKTRA 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:45 2:30 5:15 8:00 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25	5 DREAMBOY 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:00	6 ELEKTRA 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25	7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 WITHOUT A PADDLE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	8 SHALL WE DANCE 11.00 1:00 3:00

PIONEER 687-5378

1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 DREAMBOY

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 HELLWOLF
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

CAINTA 240-4661

1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 SHALL WE DANCE
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 DREAMBOY

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2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
4 ELEKTRA
5 DREAMBOY

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 DREAMBOY
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 DREAMBOY
2 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 ELEKTRA
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 SHALL WE DANCE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
4 ELEKTRA
5 DREAMBOY
6 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
6 MADHOUSE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 ELEKTRA
2 RAISE YOUR VOICE
3 DREAMBOY
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 MADHOUSE
6 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

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'S Files' and 'The Buzz' compared

By Behn Cervantes

AQUINO. Dressed as though she were going to a costume ball.

THAT "The Buzz" is the rival of "S Files" is a known fact. If one is *ka-pamilya*, the other is *kapuso*. Whatever that means in exact terms is anyone's guess.

The competition is made clearer by the blatantly snide remarks made by their respective hosts about their competitor. Derogatory remarks, after all, go with the territory of gossip.

These two shows have become staple Sunday television viewing—all the tears and rantings of those gossiping, gossiped about or those who *want* to be talked about.

Publicity

Publicity—good, bad, deserved or undeserved—is obviously desired by many stars and wannabes.

The competing channels have been involved in the ratings battle for years now, each making claims of victory over the other. Now, whom do you believe?

Naturally, since the competition is stiff, the two programs fall all over themselves in inviting the most controversial guests, stoking conflicts and working awfully hard to win the majority of titillated viewers.

It is said that "S Files" is now the more popular show. At first, I was a little surprised because "The Buzz" headliners and staff unquestionably work hard in exposing the latest stories.

All over the place

"The Buzz" also has the catchier title. "S Files" brings to mind a show about aliens. Furthermore, Abunda and Aquino are all over the place—appearing in talk shows, talent and quiz contests and commercial advertisements. You're prone to believe that they have the edge.

However, there are those who insist that the *kapuso* quartet made up of Richard Gomez, Joey Marquez, Paolo Bediones and Pia Guanio have outdistanced Abunda, Aquino, and company.

I decided to suffer through the two shows one Sunday. Why is one more popular than the other? After an hour of listening to basically the same gossip, I realized that the *kapuso* group came across as less show biz.

Kris dressed as though she were headed for a costume ball. Boy was not about to be outdone in the costume department.

If it is true that the *kapuso* quartet rates better, it may be because Gomez, Marquez, Bediones and Guanio are better-looking as a group.

Matinee idol

Richard is known as a macho matinee idol; Marquez, a lover; Paolo, an Ateneo-educated emcee; and Pia, a pretty, intelligent girl. In effect, they are not the stereotypical gossips.

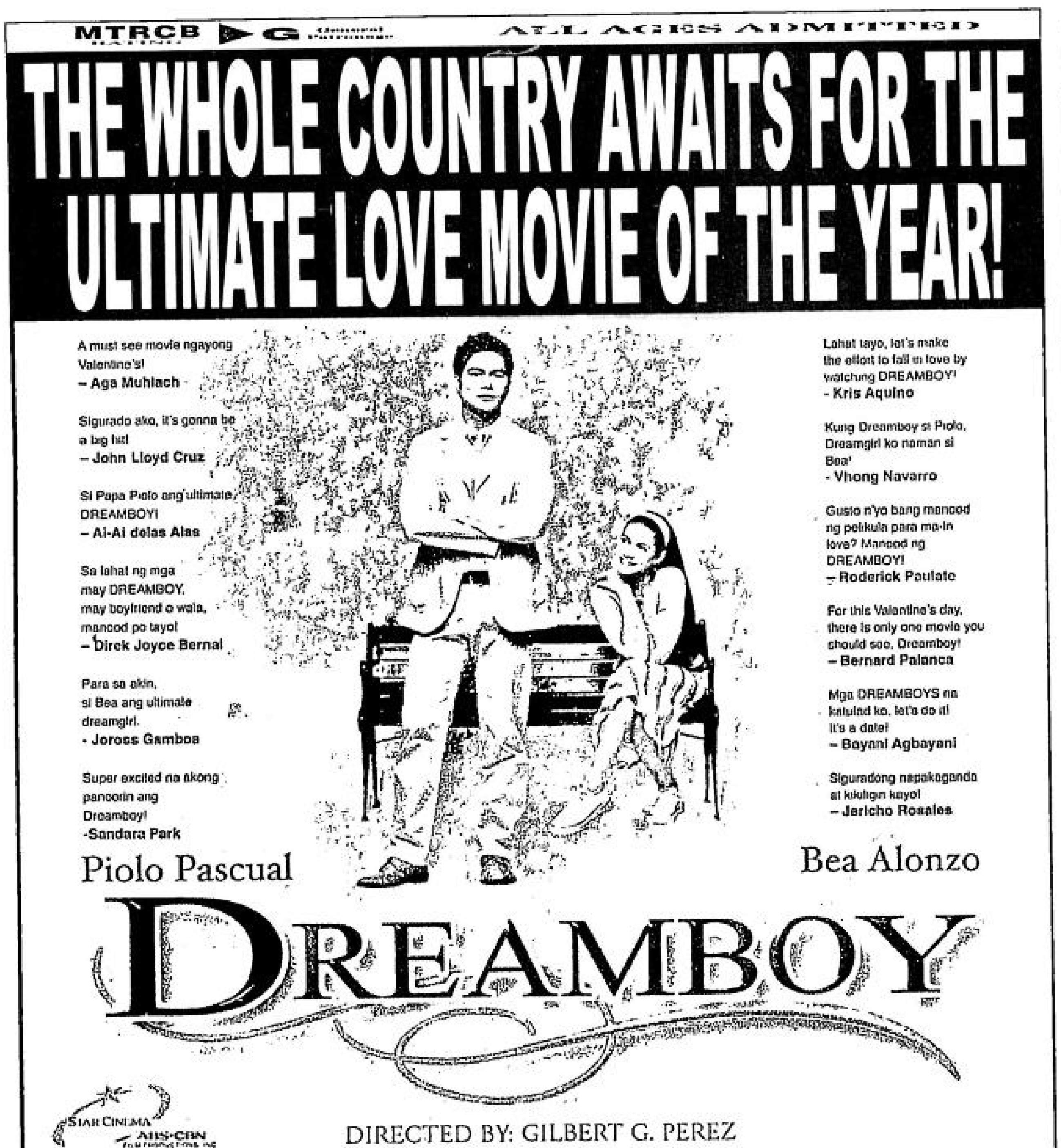
On the other hand, Boy is stereotypically looked upon as a gossip. Kris is, by virtue of her highly publicized romances, is not a surprising participant in the gossipy group; Cristy is a longtime tabloid writer, while Jobert talks like he looks. So, what do you expect from such a quartet?

"The Buzz" is definitely dominated by Abunda and Aquino. There is better spotlight-sharing on "S Files." Its hosts also make it a point to see the "problem" from the point of view of the subject of the gossip item. There is less intellectualizing on the issue, as Abunda is wont to do, or being *ala* Oprah, as Kris aims to resemble.

Our Sundays, which we were commanded "to keep holy," are now wasted in monkey business, scandals and controversies of little meaning.

—We're in trouble!

GOMEZ. Sees the problem from the point of view of the subject of the gossip item.



MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED
THE WHOLE COUNTRY AWAITS FOR THE ULTIMATE LOVE MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

A must see movie ngayong Valentine's!
– Aga Muhlach

Sigurado ako, it's gonna be a big hit!
– John Lloyd Cruz

Si Papa Piolo ang ultimate DREAMBOY!
– Ai-Ai delas Alas

Sa lahat ng mga may DREAMBOY, may boyfriend o wala, manood po tayo!
– Direk Joyce Bernal

Para sa akin, si Bea ang ultimate dreamgirl.
- Joross Gamboa

Super excited na akong panoorin ang Dreamboy!
-Sandara Park

Lahat tayo, let's make the effort to fall in love by watching DREAMBOY!
- Kris Aquino

Kung Dreamboy si Piolo, Dreamgirl ko naman si Bea!
- Vhong Navarro

Gusto n'yo bang manood ng pelikula para ma-in love? Manood ng DREAMBOY!
– Roderick Paulate

For this Valentine's day, there is only one movie you should see, Dreamboy!
– Bernard Palanca

Mga DREAMBOYS na katulad ko, let's do it! It's a date!
– Bayani Agbayani

Siguradong napakaganda at kikiligin kayo!
– Jericho Rosales

Piolo Pascual Bea Alonzo
DREAMBOY
Star Cinema ABS-CBN
DIRECTED BY: GILBERT G. PEREZ
TIMEX Hawk Outland karimadon
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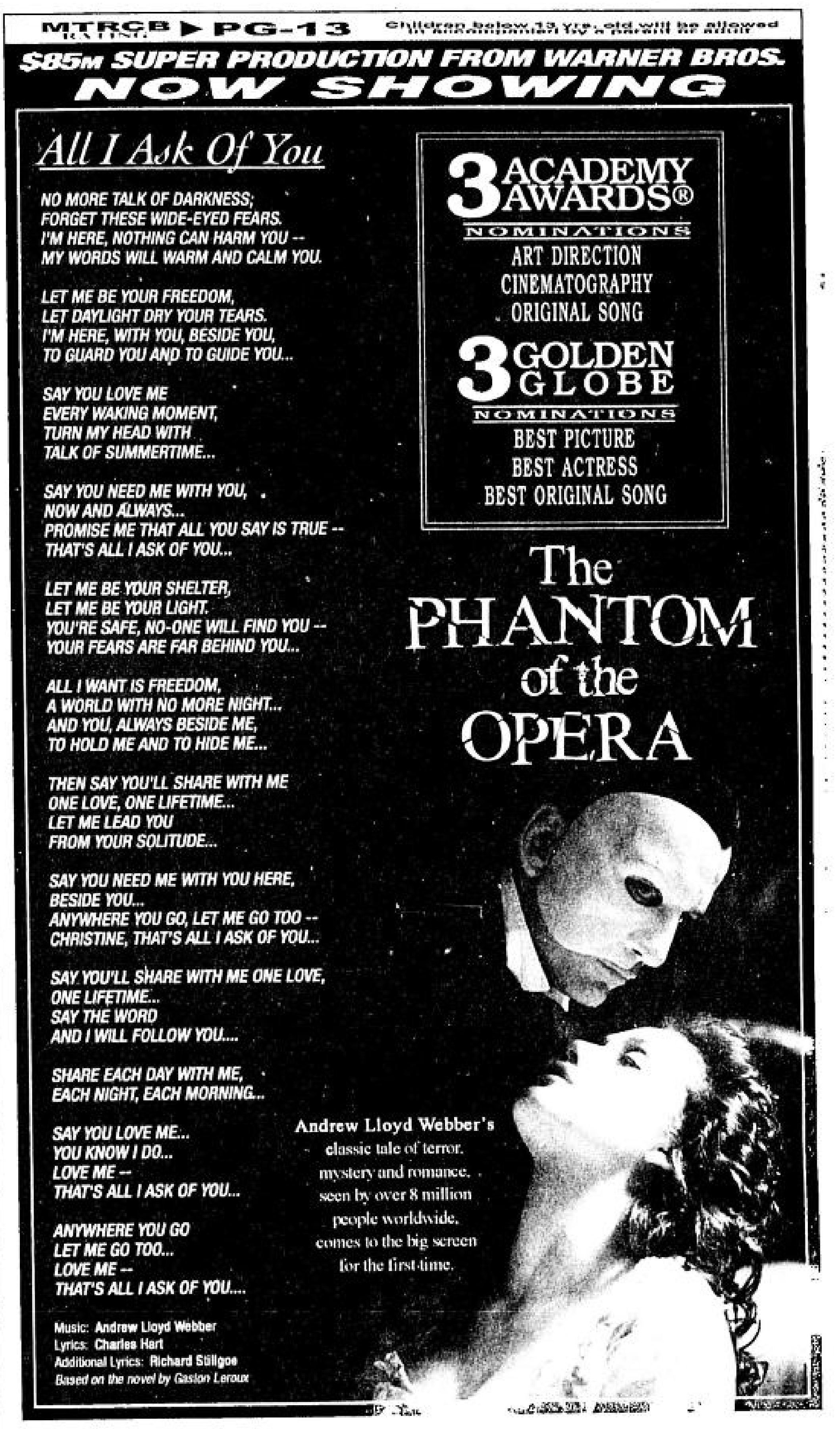

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed in accompanied by a parent or adult
$85M SUPER PRODUCTION FROM WARNER BROS.
NOW SHOWING

All I Ask Of You

NO MORE TALK OF DARKNESS;
FORGET THESE WIDE-EYED FEARS.
I'M HERE, NOTHING CAN HARM YOU --
MY WORDS WILL WARM AND CALM YOU.

LET ME BE YOUR FREEDOM,
LET DAYLIGHT DRY YOUR TEARS.
I'M HERE, WITH YOU, BESIDE YOU,
TO GUARD YOU AND TO GUIDE YOU...

SAY YOU LOVE ME
EVERY WAKING MOMENT,
TURN MY HEAD WITH
TALK OF SUMMERTIME...

SAY YOU NEED ME WITH YOU,
NOW AND ALWAYS...
PROMISE ME THAT ALL YOU SAY IS TRUE --
THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...

LET ME BE YOUR SHELTER,
LET ME BE YOUR LIGHT.
YOU'RE SAFE, NO-ONE WILL FIND YOU --
YOUR FEARS ARE FAR BEHIND YOU...

ALL I WANT IS FREEDOM,
A WORLD WITH NO MORE NIGHT...
AND YOU, ALWAYS BESIDE ME,
TO HOLD ME AND TO HIDE ME...

THEN SAY YOU'LL SHARE WITH ME
ONE LOVE, ONE LIFETIME...
LET ME LEAD YOU
FROM YOUR SOLITUDE...

SAY YOU NEED ME WITH YOU HERE,
BESIDE YOU...
ANYWHERE YOU GO, LET ME GO TOO --
CHRISTINE, THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...

SAY YOU'LL SHARE WITH ME ONE LOVE,
ONE LIFETIME...
SAY THE WORD
AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU....

SHARE EACH DAY WITH ME,
EACH NIGHT, EACH MORNING...

SAY YOU LOVE ME...
YOU KNOW I DO...
LOVE ME --
THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU...

ANYWHERE YOU GO
LET ME GO TOO...
LOVE ME --
THAT'S ALL I ASK OF YOU....

Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber
Lyrics: Charles Hart
Additional Lyrics: Richard Stilgoe
Based on the novel by Gaston Leroux

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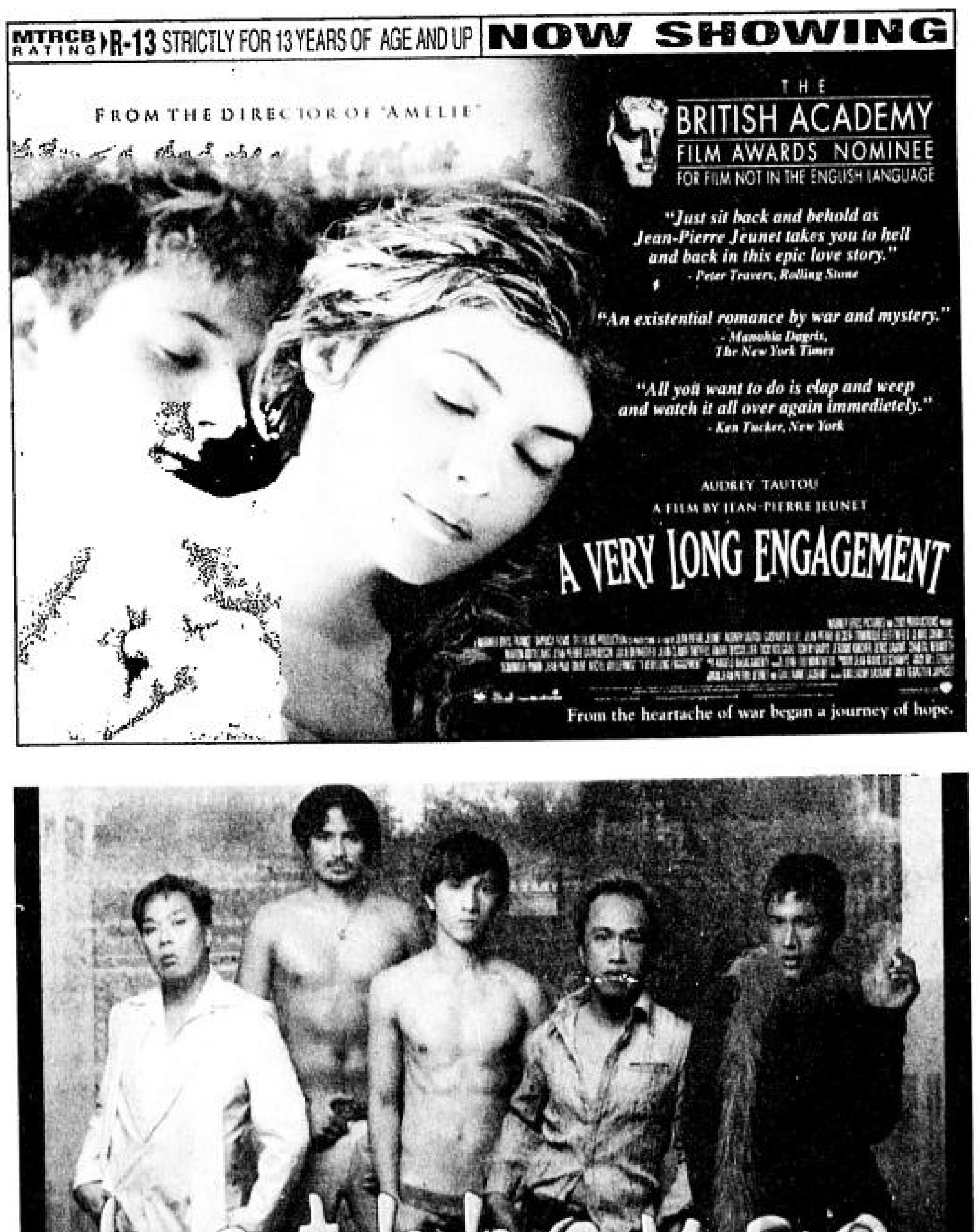
3 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTRESS
BEST ORIGINAL SONG

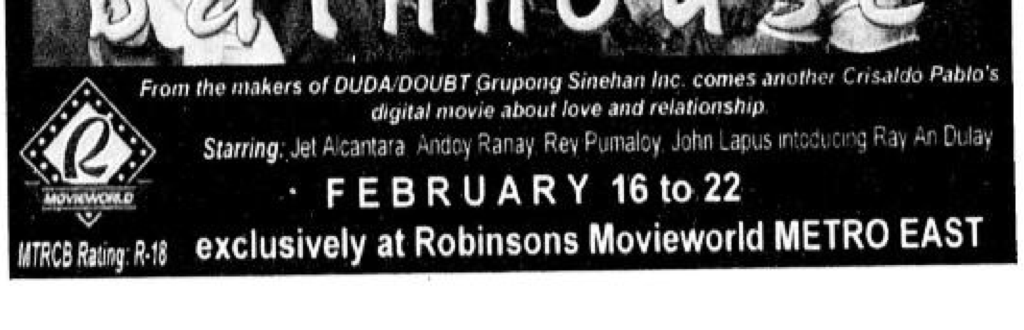
The PHANTOM of the OPERA

Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic tale of terror, mystery and romance, seen by over 8 million people worldwide, comes to the big screen for the first time.



MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP NOW SHOWING
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'AMELIE'
THE BRITISH ACADEMY FILM AWARDS NOMINEE FOR FILM NOT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
"Just sit back and behold as Jean-Pierre Jeunet takes you to hell and back in this epic love story." - Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
"An existential romance by war and mystery." - Manohla Dargis, The New York Times
"All you want to do is clap and weep and watch it all over again immedietely." - Ken Tucker, New York
AUDREY TAUTOU
A FILM BY JEAN-PIERRE JEUNET
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
From the heartache of war began a journey of hope.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP THE BEST REVIEWED ACTION PICTURE OF THE YEAR
NOW SHOWING
ETHAN HAWKE LAURENCE FISHBURNE
ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
"Action-packed! Strong performances!" It gets a grip on the audience early and never lets go... -Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN TIMES
"Emotionally compelling, visually stunning, superbly acted." -Harper Barnes, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
"Spiked with nerve-jangling energy." -Robert Denerstein, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS
"'AP13' is a gritty, fast-paced action film!" -Jack Garner, ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT
"Ethan's best action flick since 'Training Day.' It's Laurence's best role by far since the original 'Matrix'" -Tom Long, THE DETROIT NEWS
'Matrix' Laurence Fishburne is brilliantly ruthless." -MAXIM MAGAZINE



bathhouse
From the makers of DUDA/DOUBT Grupong Sinehan Inc. comes another Crisaldo Pablo's digital movie about love and relationship
Starring: Jet Alcantara Andoy Ranay Rey Pumaloy John Lapus intoducing Ray An Dulay
MOVIEWORLD
FEBRUARY 16 to 22
MTRCB Rating: R-18 exclusively at Robinsons Movieworld METRO EAST

New film festival to boost local industry's output

By Nestor U. Torre

WE talked to Leo Martinez, Director-General of the Film Academy of the Philippines, at Boots Anson Roa's recent 60th birthday bash, and we took advantage of the opportunity to get updates from him about some of the FAP's innovative projects this year.

We asked Leo about his plan to put up a mid-year festival of new movies adapted from Philippine literary works. He said the project was a go, and the festival should take place this August.

Six new films

Leo has been coordinating with the Film Development Council of the Philippines chairperson and CEO Laurice Guillen-Feleo in this regard. The plan is to raise funds to finance or partially support the production of some six new films.

Which literary pieces will be used? A selection committee of literary and film experts is being set up to answer this key question. Other details are being worked out.

We support this new festival, because it opens local film production up to a great source of significant stories that has generally been ignored in the past few decades.

MARTINEZ. Setting up proper venue to settle artistic disputes.

In the '50s, quite a number of local movies were based on popular literary works, but the practice dwindled when radio and *komiks* serials became more frequently-used sources of story material for Filipino films.

The new festival being envisioned for August this year could provide the impetus needed for our movie producers and filmmakers to make fuller use of our literary patrimony, for the benefit of all Filipinos, especially the youth.

Entries

In this regard, the Department of Education should think of recommending the festival's entries for viewing and discussion by students all over the country. This would significantly boost the festival's attendance figures, and help assure its success and continuance.

More importantly, it would help the country's youth to benefit from the richness, depth and diversity of Philippine literature, both traditional and contemporary, as dramatized by the very "viewer-friendly" medium of film. Handled properly, the new "literary" film festival could be a win-win situation all around.

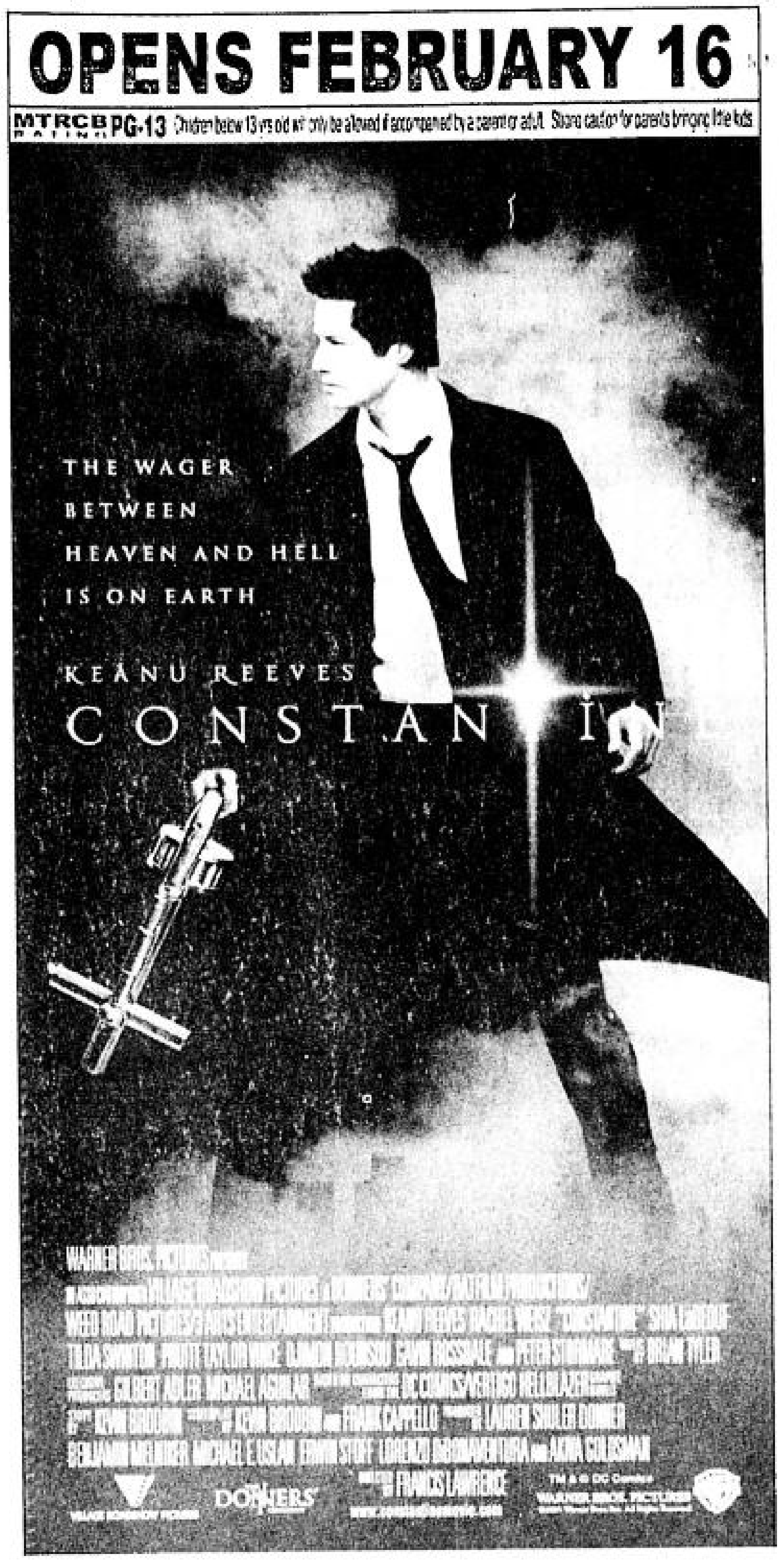
Before moving on to other matters, we also asked Leo for an update on our request for the FAP to set up a process to handle cases of plagiarism that have been brought to our attention.

Problem

If the accusers are to be believed, the problem has gotten worse, and some screenwriters have lost the heart to continue writing scripts because some of their works have been "cannibalized."

Leo says experts on intellectual property are drawing up a procedure to handle such cases for the Academy, which is the proper venue to settle such artistic disputes.

With these and other new initiatives by the FAP, FDCP and other film organizations, the future of local movies shouldn't be as bleak as some doom-and-gloom prognosticators have painted it to be. Instead of cursing the darkness, let's light those candles!



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LEDESMA. Has film directing in her sights.

Kuh evolves with her music

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

LISTENING to Kuh Ledesma's songs give us goosebumps. She is cool, composed and sophisticated. But, as we listen to her stories, she becomes friendly, warm and approachable.

"I like to spend my time by myself because I can do many things when I'm alone. I take the time to watch movies, from the greatest to the *pang-masa* B-movies. I'd like to get into the movies and direct.

First play

"I directed plays in high school and even won a best director award for my first play. But it was just a school play. I do have the ability to lead people, so I feel that I have it in me to direct, but I know that plays and movies are

KUH/ A2-5

CRUISE to Zellweger in "Jerry Maguire": "You complete me."

Unforgettable . . .

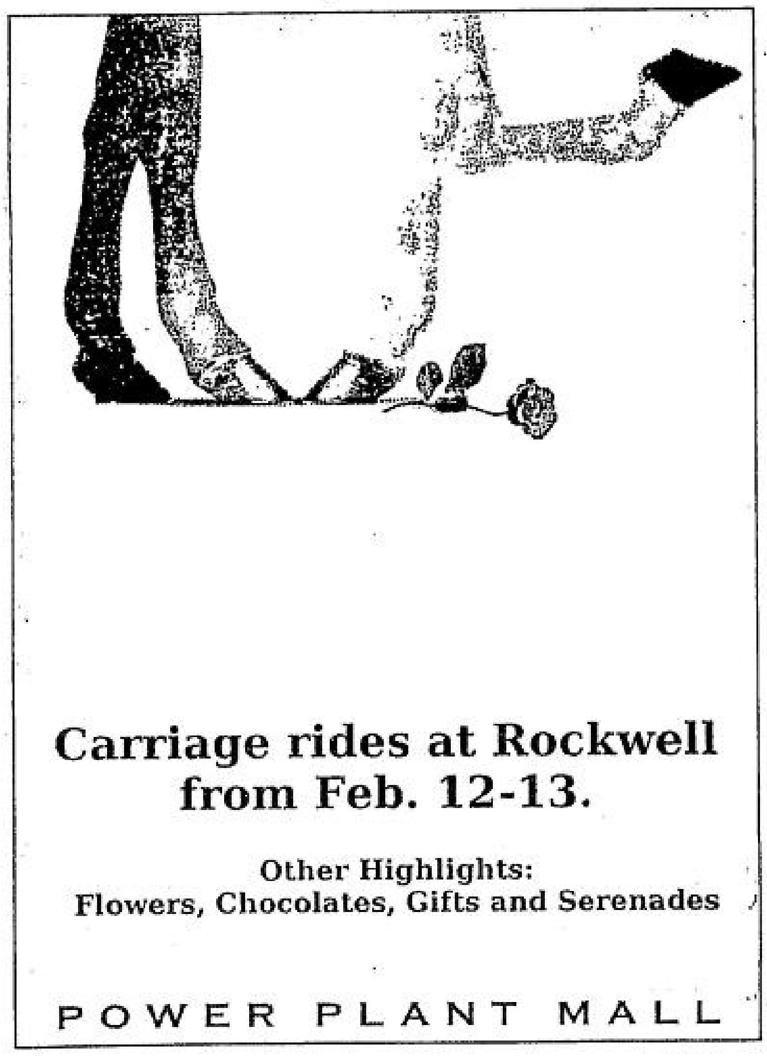
From page A2-2

and Ryan's "City of Angels" (One moment with someone you love is better than an eternity without her); Clint Eastwood and Streep's "The Bridges of Madison County" (the classic debate on love vs. familial obligation) and, of course, James Cameron's "Titanic."

* * *

Rep's "Busybody" at Onstage

Repertory Philippines' "Busybody," directed by Michael Williams, opens this week at Greenbelt's Onstage. Performances are Fridays to Sundays until Feb. 27. Call Ria or Gidget at 887-0710.



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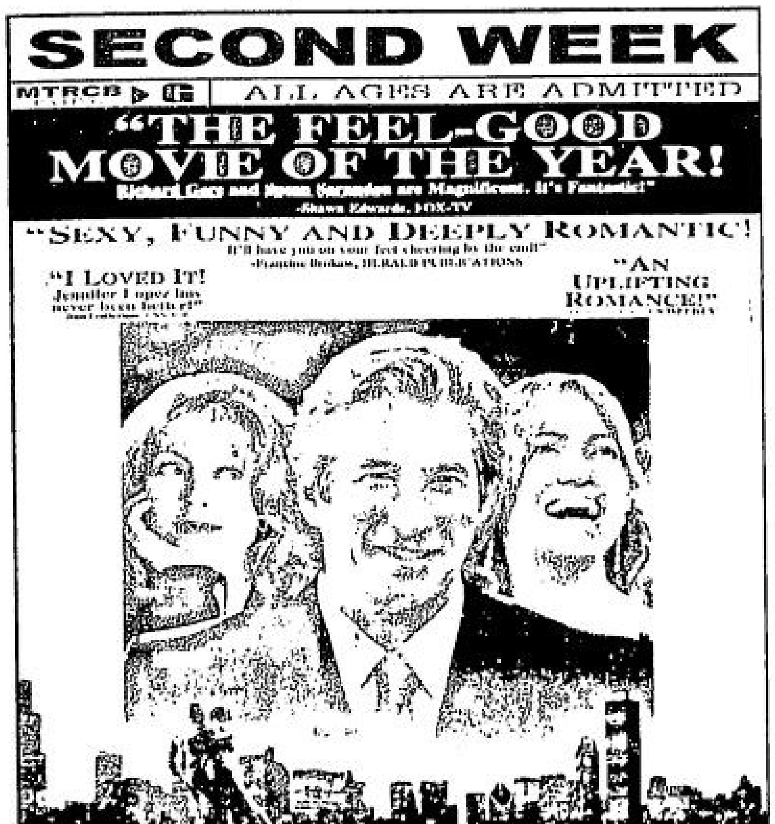

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"SEXY, FUNNY AND DEEPLY ROMANTIC!
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-Francine Brokaw, HERALD PUBLICATIONS
"I LOVED IT! Jennifer Lopez has never been better!"
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Richard Gere Jennifer Lopez Susan Sarandon
Shall we Dance?
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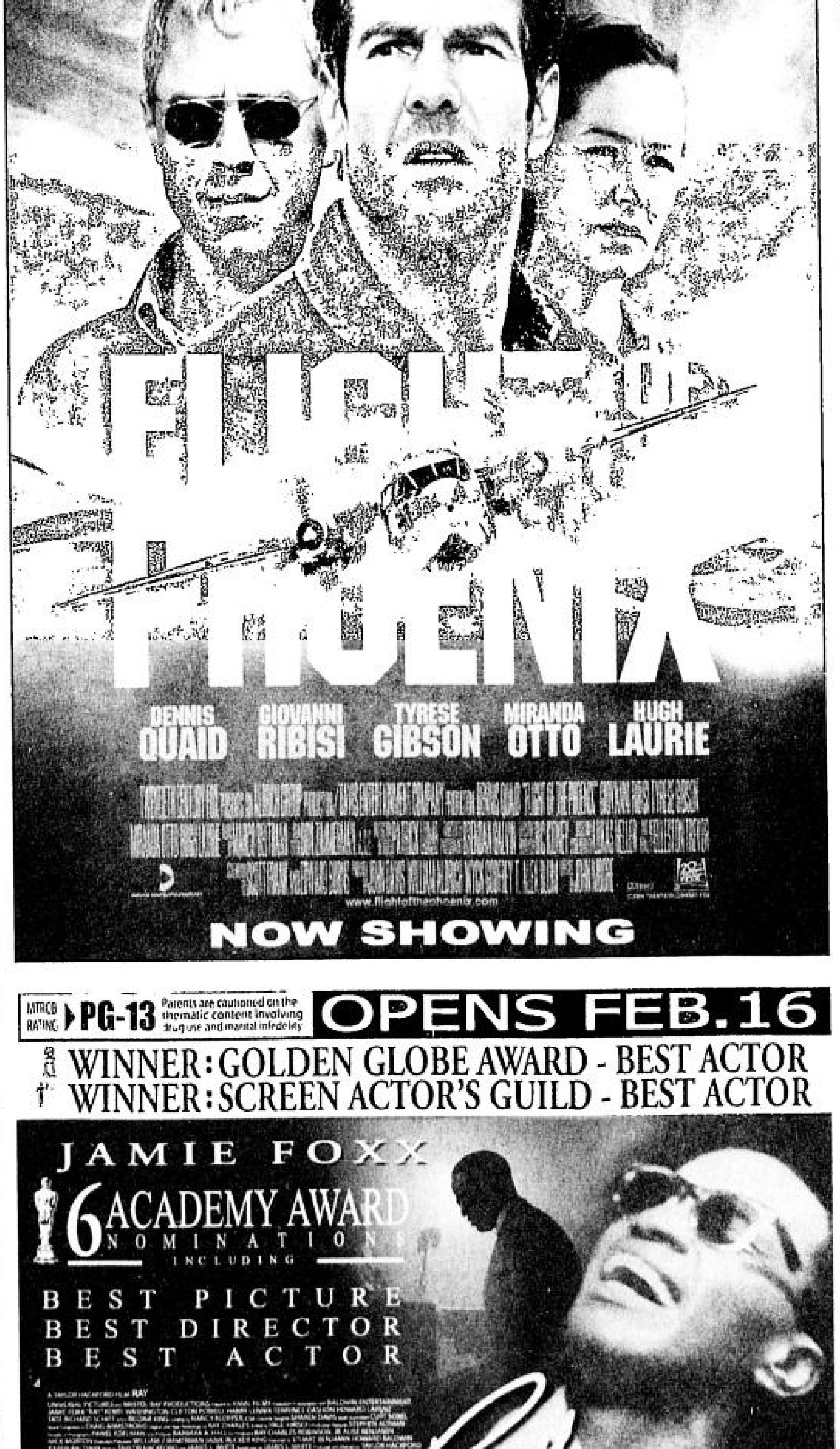

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JstASmylAway	RA218
LivinWoutU	RA217
PaanoNa	RA216

Francis M	
3StarsNASun	RA212
BowWowWow	RA211
CldSmrNyts	EA180
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SATURDAY Special

Gary V, Francine, other stars cite their favorite love songs

By Andy Bais

LOVE songs always have a place in every Pinoy's heart. This is evident in the type of songs that we often hear on the radio; even our local songwriters are partial to them.

What's in a love song that makes it special and popular in these parts? To give us a clue, we asked local celebrities for their favorite love songs and why:

Francine Prieto: "I have two: 'Forever' by Damage, whose lyrics I really like. *Talagang nakaka*-in love *kahit na* forever is impossible! The other one is 'For All Of My Life' by For Real. *Magandang* song *para sa* wedding *ko*."

PRIETO. Song for her wedding.

Refrain

Sheryn Regis: "'Ikaw' by Louie Ocampo and George Canseco. *'Yan ang* theme song *namin ng* husband *ko*. It reflects my feelings—my true love for him, a gift from God. I especially like the refrain: *Ang lahat ng aking galaw, ang sanhi ay ikaw...*"

REGIS. True love is a gift from God.

Alfred Vargas: "'I Miss You' by Incubus. I like it because of the line: 'To see you when I wake up is a gift I didn't think could be real, to know that you feel the same as I do is a three-fold utopian dream . . .' Brandon Boyd, the vocalist of the band, is a genius!"

Jamie Rivera: "'I've Fallen For You,' composed by Jay Donna Montelibano. A lot of people fell in love because of this song. Also, my daughter is singing it now—it's her favorite song!"

Bernadette Sembrano: "'I Want to Grow Old with You,' the song from 'The Wedding Singer.' It goes: 'I want to make you smile whenever you're sad, carry you around when your arthritis is bad, all I wanna do is grow old with you . . .' This song makes me smile. Don't we all want to grow old with someone?"

Michael de Mesa: "'Because Of You' by Keith Martin. The lyrics of the song reflect how I feel at the moment. *Maraming nabago sa buhay ko*. I especially like the song's refrain."

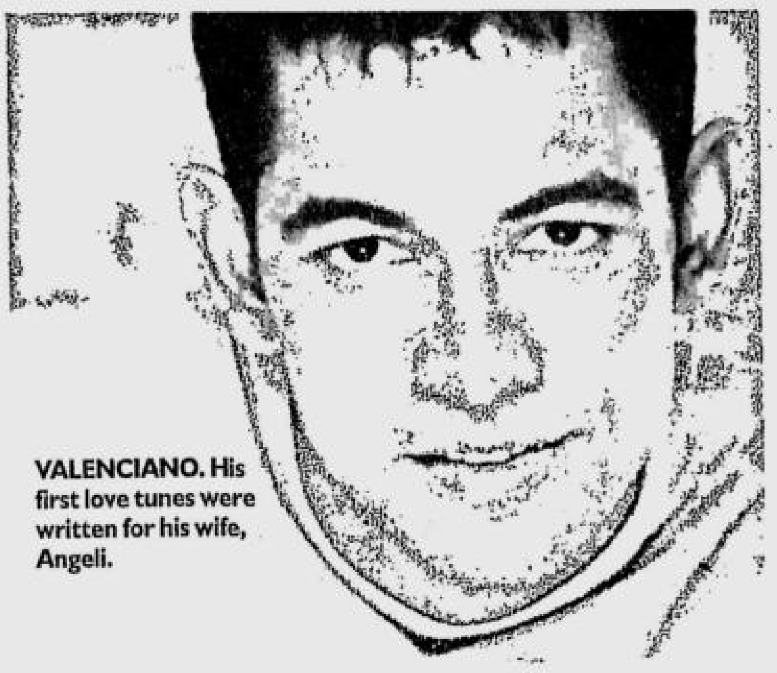
Giselle Toengi: "'More Today Than Yesterday': 'I love you more today than yesterday, but not as much as tomorrow . . .' I like it because my fiancé sings that to me everyday, and that's exactly how I feel about him, too."

Invitation

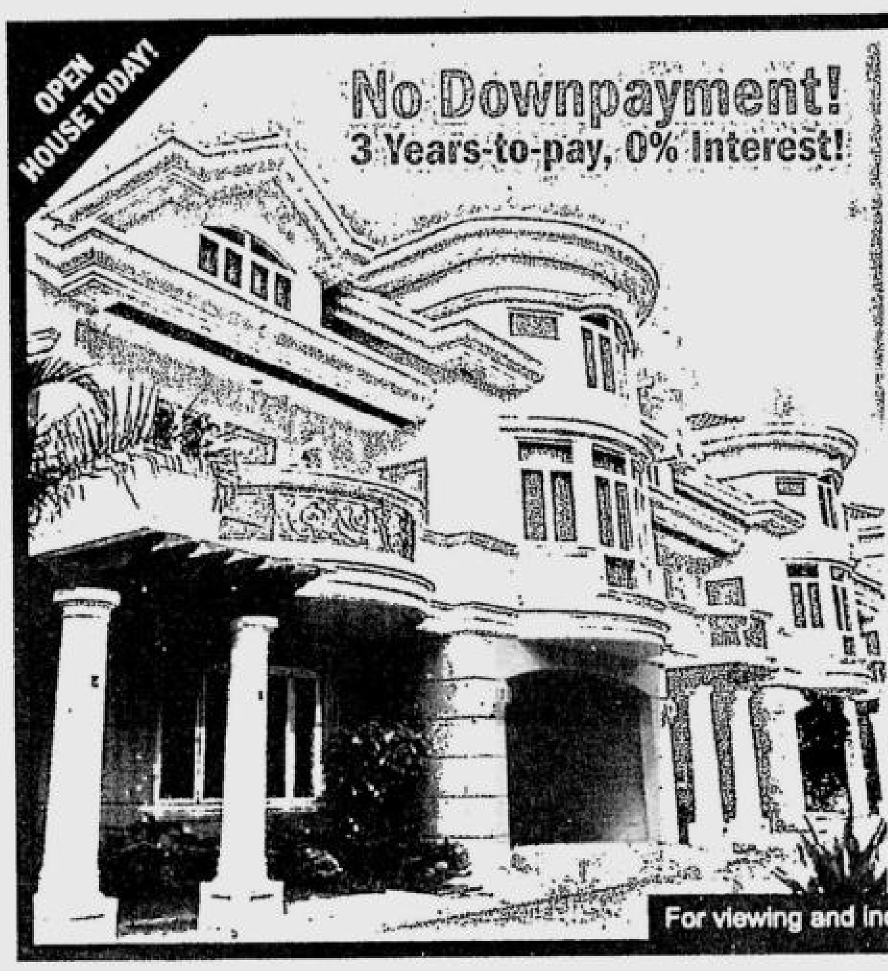
Donita Rose: "I love the song 'Waiting In Vain' by Annie Lennox. On Dec. 27,2001, Eric took me to his boss' house in San Francisco because he had to pick up something from her house.

"As we were waiting outside in his car, he played this song and sang it to me. We were so lovestruck! Then he asked me if I wanted to take a walk by the cliffs that were overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge. I was so *kilig*, I accepted the invitation. Little did I know that, 10 minutes after listening to the song, Eric would ask for my hand in marriage! We played it at our wedding reception for our first dance together."

Gary Velenciano: "'Fool Till the End and 'After All.' Why? These were the first love tunes I wrote based on the situation I was facing at the time. Best of all, the person for whom I wrote them is the one I am with now and forever—my wife, Angeli."



VALENCIANO. His first love tunes were written for his wife, Angeli.



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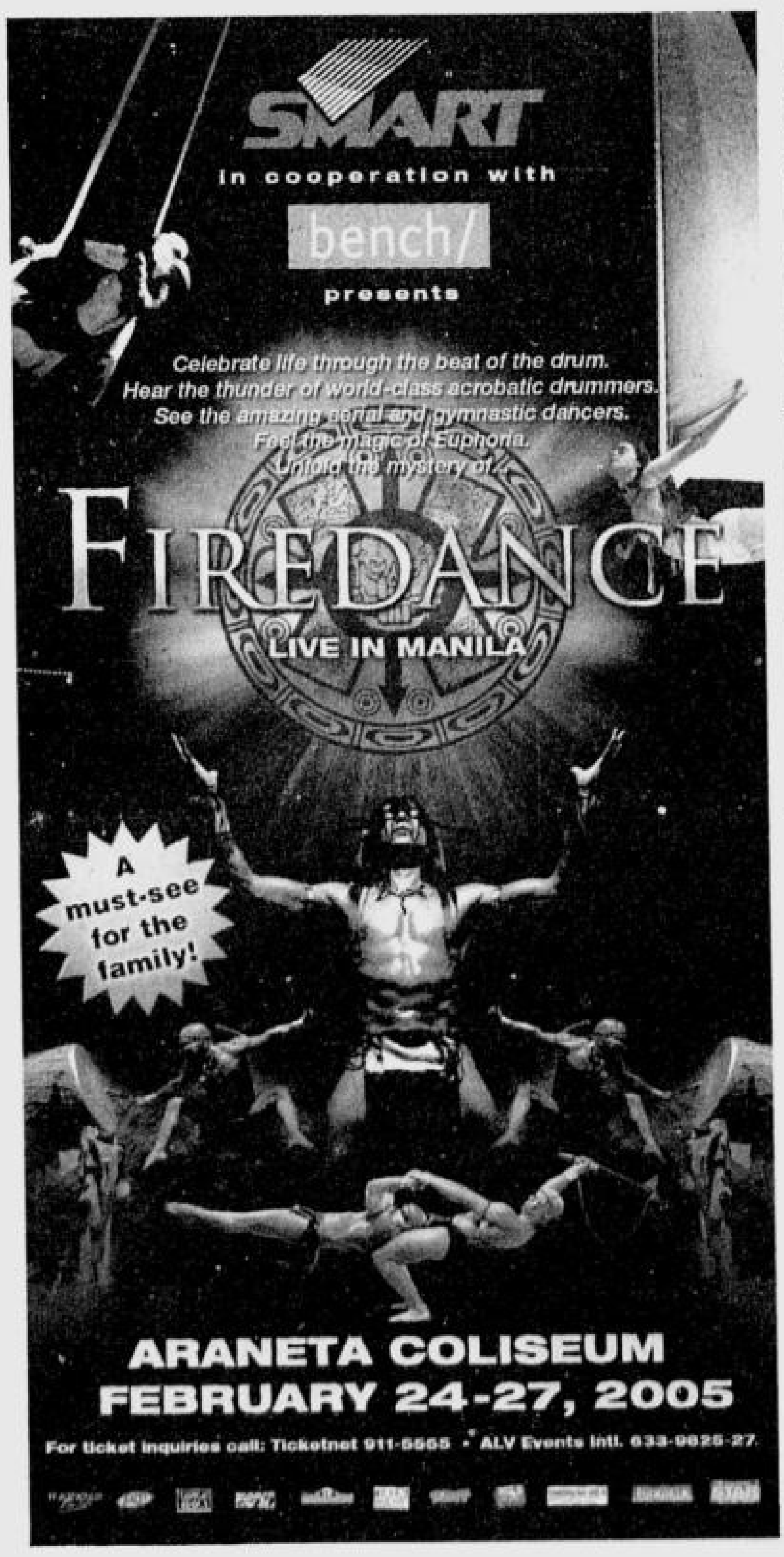

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By Rito P. Asilo

"The Phantom of the Opera"

D: Joel Schumacher
S: Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum, Minnie Driver

IN the 1870s, a feared and revered Phantom (Gerard Butler)—a physically and emotionally scarred genius, an architect, designer and musician—hides from the world and its cruelties, and from an abusive past, underneath the sewers of the French Opera House.

He lives for the enraptured attention and devotion of his beautiful, young protege, the promising 16-year-old chorus girl Christine Daae (Emmy Rossum), who is herself haunted by her dead father's promise that he would send her an "Angel of Music" for her musical wings to take flight.

The Phantom sabotages performances of the reigning soprano, the difficult Carlotta (Minnie Driver), to push Christine into the limelight. Then, the duo falls in love—he with Christine, she with the fresh-faced Raoul (Patrick Wilson), the Vicomte de Chagny. And all hell breaks loose.

If you love Andrew Lloyd Webber's music ("All I Ask of You," "Think of Me," "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again," "Music of the Night"), you'll find Joel Schumacher's visually stunning big-screen adaptation of the popular stage musical a triumphant spectacle that dazzles with its sweeping musicality, lush art direction, scenography, and fine female lead.

Rossum blends angelic singing with an uncanny thespic depth for someone so young. But, while Butler effectively taps into the Phantom's angst and emotional demons, his vocal pipes are hardly Michael Crawford-quality—and his handsome physical features still seethe through the crummy prosthetics.

The hilarious Driver, on the other hand, hams it up and steals her scenes, despite lipsynching to Margaret Preece's singing voice.

The musical alternately soars and drags, but Schumacher ably captures the beauty, grandeur, scope, and heightened emotions that characterize musical theater. Despite differences in the media of film and the legitimate stage, what remains affecting is the sympathetic Phantom's constant battle for love and sanity.

As he succumbs deeper into "the dark dungeons of his black despair," we also hear his cry for help—a deep, sad longing that is not uncommon to all of us—as he cries: "Save me from my solitude!"

BUTLER AND ROSSUM. Play The Phantom and Christine Daae, respectively, in film adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's well-loved musical.

"Dreamboy"

D: Gilbert Perez
S: Piolo Pascual, Bea Alonzo

Cyd (Bea) keeps falling for men who look uncannily alike: The classy Philip, the rough and scruffy Eboy and the charming Jamie.

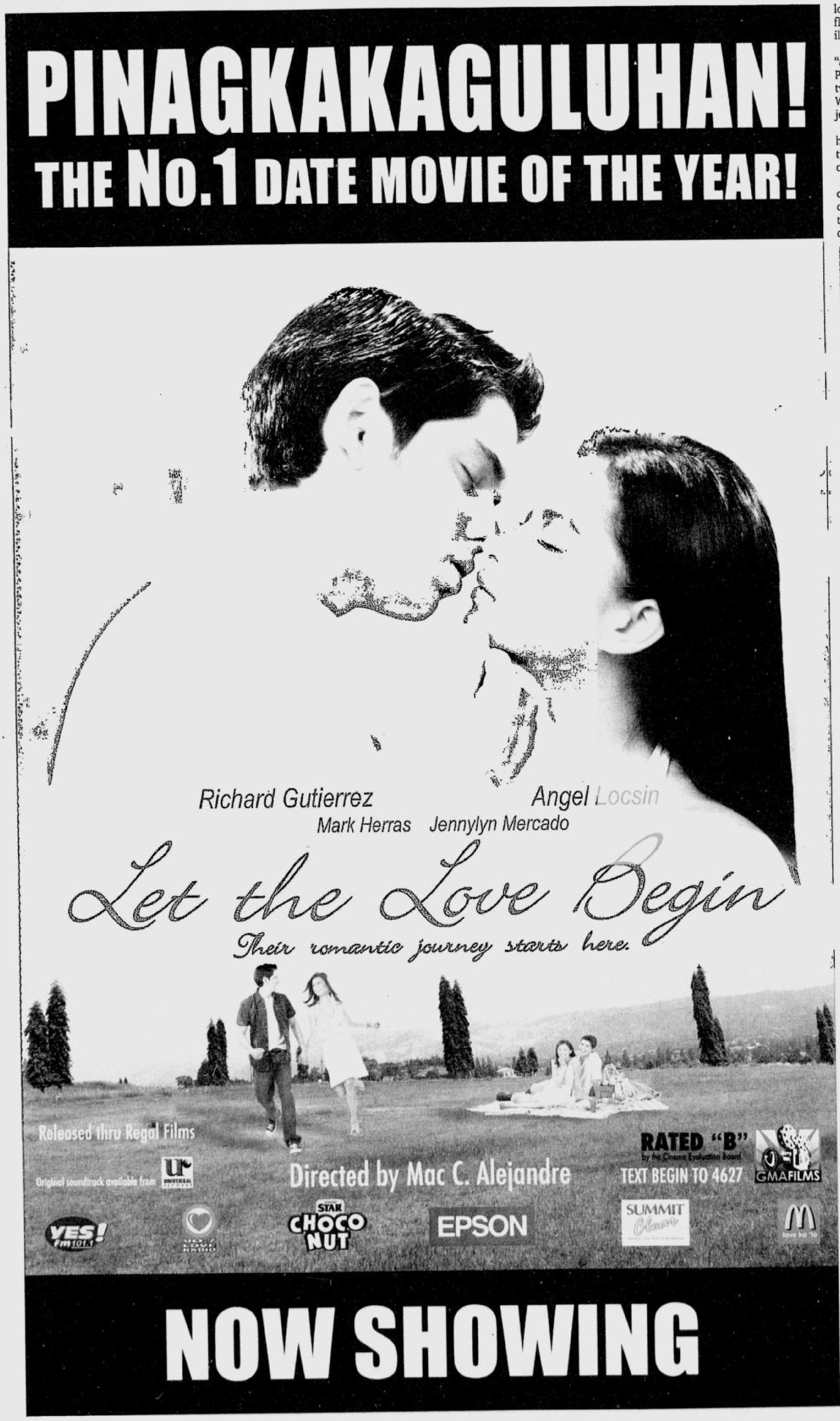
Heck, she doesn't even notice that they're all portrayed by Piolo Pascual, and that all three men have moles on exactly the same location on their faces—even their vocal inflections and speaking patterns are eerily similar!

Since close pals convince her that she's not "*tanga*" (stupid), she at least gets to ask the Piolo look-alikes if they didn't have identical twin brothers separated from them at birth. Well, maybe there's another more fitting adjective for her out there…?

One day, she realizes that, yes, she's been had by a "Truman Show" reality-TV ripoff that's as implausible as the silly plot of this otherwise glossy feature film.

Of course, love will always find a way to cook up a fairy-tale ending for the star-crossed lovers. Unfortunately, glossy production and a charismatic pair of lead actors don't a good movie make.

ALONZO AND PASCUAL. Gloss and charm don't a good movie make.



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WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SHANGHAI, China—I had never been to any part of China except Hong Kong, so I had no idea what to expect. All I heard was that it was the Paris of the East.

I was there recently for a Tourism Expo on behalf of the province of Ilocos Norte. The evening upon our arrival, we had dinner at the hotel's Chinese restaurant. The food was good, but nothing special.

The next day, we went to the opening of the Expo. After our tour of the exposition, we were set for an authentic Shanghai meal.

Modern theme

Le Shanghai is a fine dining restaurant with a modern theme. The décor of the place reminded me of Mr. Chow in London: a Chinese restaurant with Italian waiters in England! We ordered river shrimps, tiny, fresh shrimps steamed with very light sauce. Delicious!

We also had soft-shelled and Shanghai crabs, shark's fin soup, smoked duck, braised pork belly, eggplants in garlic, and fried rice, Shanghai-style. The crabs were excellent! The shark's fin soup was superb. It was topped with crab fat, drizzled with red vinegar and chopped wansoy.

The smoked duck was tender, with hardly any fat, and served with a tiny steamed bun. Made into a *cuapao*-like sandwich, it was one of the most delicious dishes. The pork belly was gelatin-like in its tenderness, sinful and delicious, and served with light soy sauce.

The eggplant and fried rice were very good. It was a whole new dining experience. Beware of the shark's fin soup's price, though—it ate up 60 percent of our total bill! Le Shanghai Restaurant is at Lane 181 Taicang road, tel. (021) 631 12323. A must!

Most popular

Another evening, we were invited by Ambassador Jess Yabes to have dinner at one of the most popular restaurants in Shanghai.

The next day, we were off to the market. I could not believe the place, it was like the *tiangge* in Greenhills. But, while the prices were cheaper, the quality was like Fabourg St. Honore in Paris. Unbelievable! I am not crazy about shopping, but I had to buy a huge bag to hold everything I bought! All in all, a 10-star rating!

Happy eating!

Filipino animators come up with pioneering digital trilogy

By Ronald G. Mangubat

FOR seven months now, 30 veteran animators have labored day and night to complete "Pinoy Anime," an original Filipino digital animation trilogy which is slated for airing over GMA-7, starting Feb. 13 at 8 a.m.

Originally titled "Kuwentong Kayumanggi," "Pinoy Anime" is a trilogy of Filipino myths and legends from the country's three main island groups—Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Its first feature, "Araw at Gabi," is the legend of the moon and stars narrated by broadcast journalist Cheche Lazaro. Rapper Francis Magalona tells the second story of the legend of "Hundred Islands and the Bravery of Datu Mabiskeg," while comedienne Michael V. narrates the third story about Dagohoy and his legendary mystical powers.

Labor of love

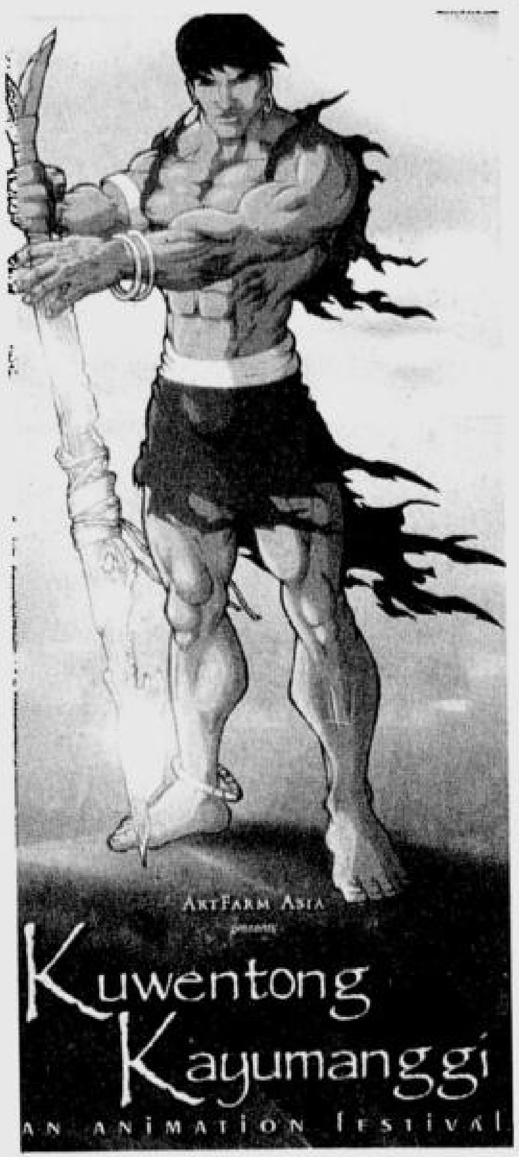
"It was a labor of love," says Mina Caliguia, managing director of ArtFarm Asia, the first animation school in the Philippines, who, together with her husband, veteran animator Nelson Caliguia, acted as producer of "Pinoy Animé."

"*Patayan talaga*," she says about the experience. "*Pagod kami, hindi kami natulog*, we spent countless hours in pre-production, brainstorming concepts in coffee shops. The amount of support that we got was overwhelming."

Mina, who is also the head writer of the whole project, tapped a creative pool of talents who rendered their services *pro bono*. Aside from the animators (some of whom were graduates of their animation school), the sound engineers, digital editors, musicians and even the narrators did not think twice when they were approached to be part of the project.

Mainstream media

According to Mina, this is the first time that a Pinoy animation of this magnitude is going to be released in mainstream media.



"PINOY ANIMÉ." Compilation of Pinoy myths and legends.

"There have been a lot of attempts by Pinoy animators before, but they were all experimental," she explains. "We dared to go mainstream and went with the Disney style in order to reach a wider audience. We have been very lucky that we were able to get donors and corporate sponsorships."

A cooperative of Filipino communities based abroad supported ArtFarm by paying for the scholarships of some 80 marginalized students. Earnings from the school, according to Mina, were rolled over to help defray "Pinoy Anime's" production cost. Foreign giant animation studios like Toon City, were supportive, and promised to employ all of ArtFarm's trainees when they graduate this April.

Students

As if that wasn't enough, even the Department of Education stepped in and endorsed "Pinoy Anime" as part of the educational content of elementary and high school students.

Mina explains: "It's a virtual suicide attempt on our part because we invested a lot, and we don't know if we are going to recover our capital. But, we are touched by the outpouring of support from a lot of people.

"Our ultimate dream is to be able to produce a compilation of Filipino myths and legends, which we can distribute globally, so even Fil-Ams won't feel culturally empty."

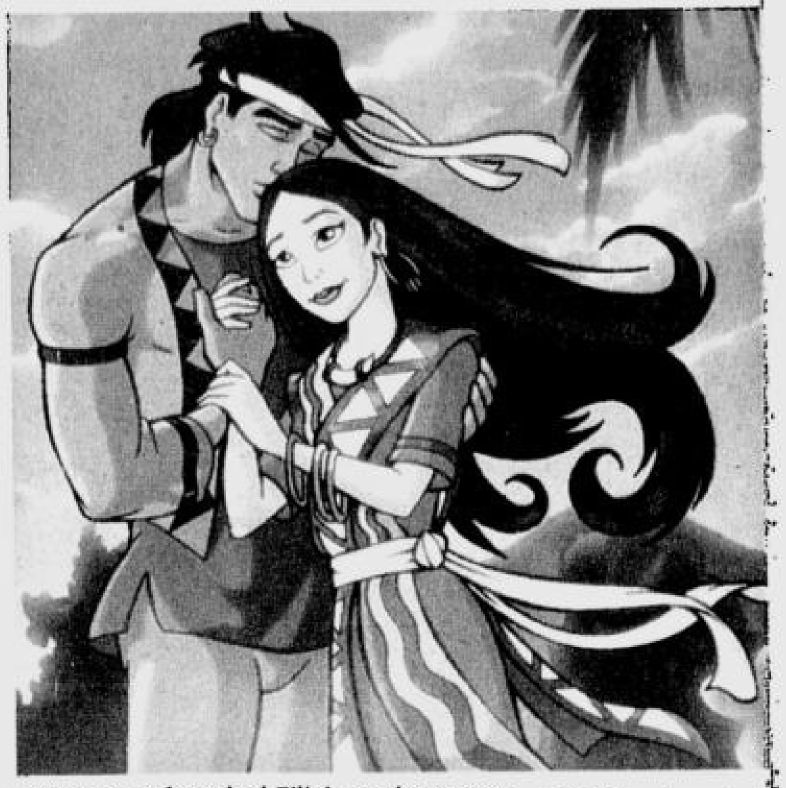
Mina opines that we have a mine of materials rich enough to popularize our myths and legends. "Our stories are so Greek. *Maraming* tragedies. We're *avante garde* in terms of our icons, and we're not even talking about Gabriela Silang here!

"We're talking about the prehistoric Pinoy, so there's a lot of potential in terms of materials."

As far as expertise is concerned, Mina says Filipinos comprise a large percentage of some of the excellent animators in the world. In fact, almost all Hollywood animation films in recent years have had Filipino animators on their staff.

"We are entertainers by heart. We are expressive. We are unabashed in expressing movement, compared to our Asian counterparts. We're loud, physical and wacky. All these characteristics have been translated into art forms, that's why we're such good animators," she says.

"Individually, we're exceptional animators but collectively, we have yet to shine. I hope that, with this production, Filipino animators will really get noticed."



LOCAL cartoon to be aired on GMA-7.

30 shows feted on 'A.S.A.P.'

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

"KAMAO" is a boxing reality show hosted by Robin Padilla and Vina Morales. The show features 11 aspiring boxers who will undergo training under Manny Pacquiao for 11 weeks, and who will compete against each other for the grand prize of P500,000, a professional boxing license and a piece of real estate.

Another new reality talent show is "Stardance: Search for the Dance Idols." Hosted by Marvin Agustin, Archie Alemania, Bianca Gonzalez and JC Cuadrado, "Stardance" follows the usual talent search format.

"Search for the Star in a Million," meanwhile, is a revamping of—guess what?—"Star in a Million." Hosted by Sarah Geronimo, Erik Santos, Christian Bautista and Mark Bautista, the difference is supposedly in the concert-contest format. The celebrity judges are Wyngard Tracy, Agot Isidro and Rowell Santiago.

Message

It's interesting to look at the message that shows like "Kamao," "Stardance," "Search for the Star in a Million" and "SCQ" seem to perpetuate. They may not be doing it consciously, but they lend strength to the rapidly growing conviction that the answer to one's problems lies in television. Recently, we've been hearing the phrase: "*mag-artista ka na lang*" more and more. Who knows, we might even hear people saying "*mag*-boxer *ka na lang*" in the near future.

We don't begrudge the contestants their dreams of fame and fortune, but as it is, we already have too many of them.

Maybe we just love celebrities because they give us something to talk about—and if the number of gossip shows is any indication, we want to talk about them all the time. Numbering among the channel's new shows are two tattlers—"ETK (Entertainment Konek)" and "Show Biz No.1."

AGUSTIN. Host of ABS-CBN's reality talent show, "Stardance."

Tabloid

The former, which airs every Saturday, boasts that they are "*mas matapang*" and "*mas kumpleto*," while the latter (which airs on weekdays), claims that, with their "groundbreaking" show, "tabloid has finally found its way to television." (Hmm, hasn't it done so already? And, is there any ground left that hasn't been broken?)

Other programs that are bound to be popular are the chinovela, "Save the Last Dance for Me" and "'Til Death Do Us Part." The latter features the team-up of real-life sweethearts Diether Ocampo and Kristine Hermosa, both of whom seem to be trying hard to look like a Chinese soap star and a Latina soap star, respectively.

"A.S.A.P.: 30 on 30" had so many guests that we found it hard to keep track of all of them. It must be some sort of *horror vacuui*, or maybe they just want to distract the audience from the realization that many of the performances are either mediocre or unrehearsed—and sometimes both. You can guess how "enjoyable" watching that was!

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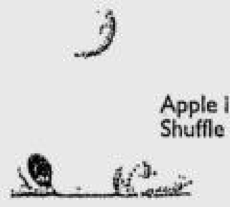

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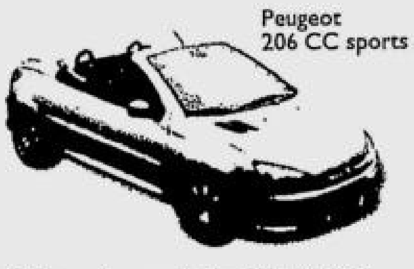

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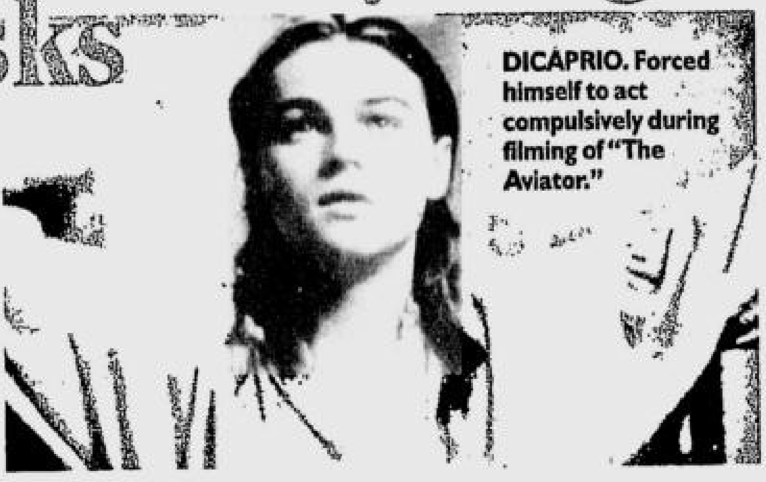

DICAPRIO. Forced himself to act compulsively during filming of "The Aviator."

LOS ANGELES—Leonardo DiCaprio talked for hours with one of Howard Hughes' ex-wives and with numerous aging acquaintances. He read every book he could find about Hughes and immersed himself in old newsreel footage as part of an unstinting hunt to find the essence of the billionaire.

He forced himself to act compulsively—the way Hughes might have acted—during the filming of "The Aviator" by stepping on certain cracks, and by rubbing the nap of a carpet in one set direction with his shoe.

But, he stopped short of doing what Hughes does in the movie—collect his urine in bottles.

Early movies

Cate Blanchett, who co-stars with DiCaprio as Katharine Hepburn in the film, said she watched all of Hepburn's early movies—the period in which critics said the actress ran the

CELEBS/ A4-2

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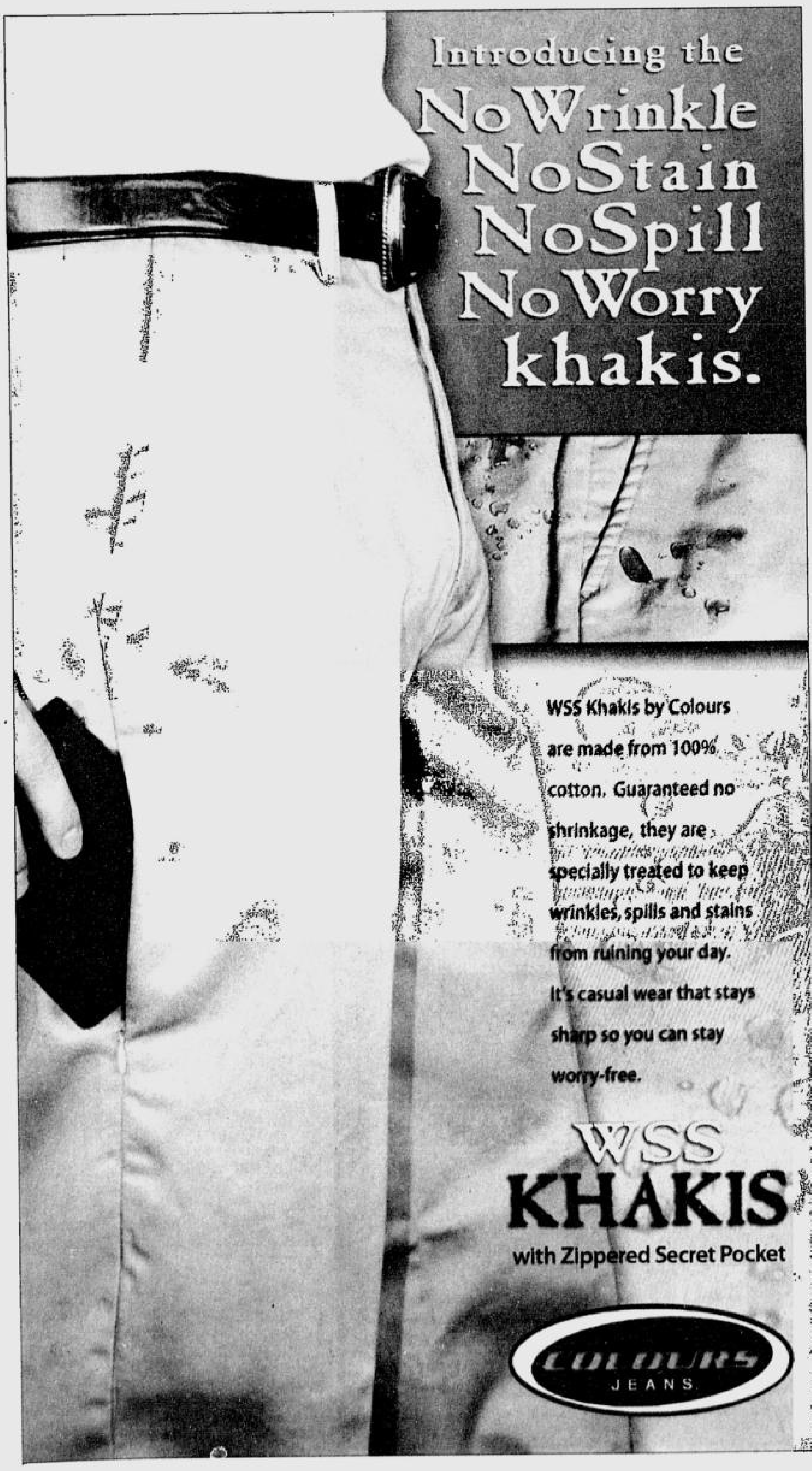

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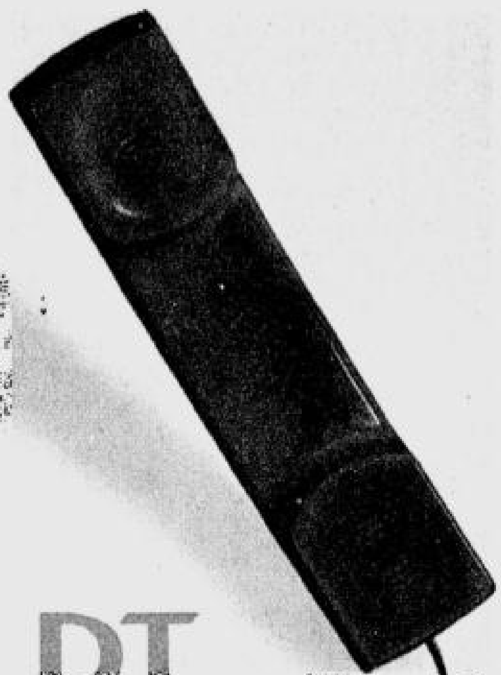

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Memorable lines from romantic films remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

IT'S the season of love, so let's recall the most inspiring romantic films we've seen, and the beautiful, quotable dialogue that famous screen lovers intoned in them. This is much better than the "You complete me" blush-inducers that more recent movies have been able to cough up of late.

To make this cinematic trip down memory lane more interesting, let's turn it into a quiz, with the titles of the romantic films in question revealed only at the end of this piece. Can you guess from which movies these memorable romantic lines came from? No peeking!:

1. "How can you change your entire life and build a new one on one moment of love? And yet, that's what you make me want to close my eyes and do."

2. "Perhaps it's better if I live in your heart, where the world can see it."

Cannon fire

3. "Was that cannon fire, or is my heart pounding?"

4. "We'll always have Paris."

5. "I don't bite, you know—unless it's called for."

6. "I don't want to live forever if you're not going to be with me."

7. "I'm a hooker, you're a trick. Why ruin a perfect relationship?

8. "But I don't want a better man, Sebastian: I just want you."

9. "I'll go out with you, or I'll stay in with you; or I'll do anything that you like for me to do, if you tell me that you love me."

10. "I don't know how to kiss, or I would kiss you. Where do the noses go?"

11. "You're a child—a beautiful, greedy child. And it amuses me to feed you beautiful things because you eat with such a good appetite!"

HEPBURN. Co-starred with Cary Grant in "Charade."

12. "You should be kissed, and often—and by someone who knows how."

13. "Inspite of you and me and the whole silly world going to pieces around us, I love you—because we're alike, bad lots both of us, selfish and shrewd, but able to look things in the eyes and call them by their right names."

14. "Some people seem prettier when you dream about them, than they really are. But a funny thing about you, you're even prettier than the dream."

15. "Carey, you know very well we're perfectly mated. After all, we're opposite sexes!"

16. "Oh, Frank, my lips are hot. Kiss my hot lips!"

17. "Why don't you get out of that wet coat and into a dry martini?"

Poor girl

18. "I guess you are attractive in a corn-fed sort of way. You can find yourself a poor girl to fall for you—if you threw in a set of dishes."

19. "Nothing worth knowing can be understood with the mind. Everything really valuable has to enter you through a different opening, if you'll forgive the disgusting imagery."

20. "I know that when you take me home, I'm just going to lie on my bed and think about you!"

* * *

Answers:

1. Greta Garbo to Robert Taylor in "Camille."

2. Garbo to Taylor; same film.

3. Ingrid Bergman to Humphrey Bogart in "Casablanca."

4. Bogart to Bergman, same film.

5. Audrey Hepburn to Cary Grant in "Charade."

6. Hume Cronyn to Jessica Tandy in "Cocoon."

7. Kathleen Turner to Anthony Perkins in "Crimes of Passion."

8. Ida Lupino to Errol Flynn in "Escape Me Never."

9. Karen Black to Jack Nicholson in "Five Easy Pieces."

10. Ingrid Bergman to Gary Cooper in "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

11. George Macready to Rita Hayworth in "Gilda."

12. Clark Gable to Vivien Leigh in "Gone with the Wind."

13. Gable to Leigh, same film.

14. Spencer Tracy to Irene Dunne in "A Guy Named Joe."

June bride

15. Bette Davis to Robert Montgomery in "June Bride."

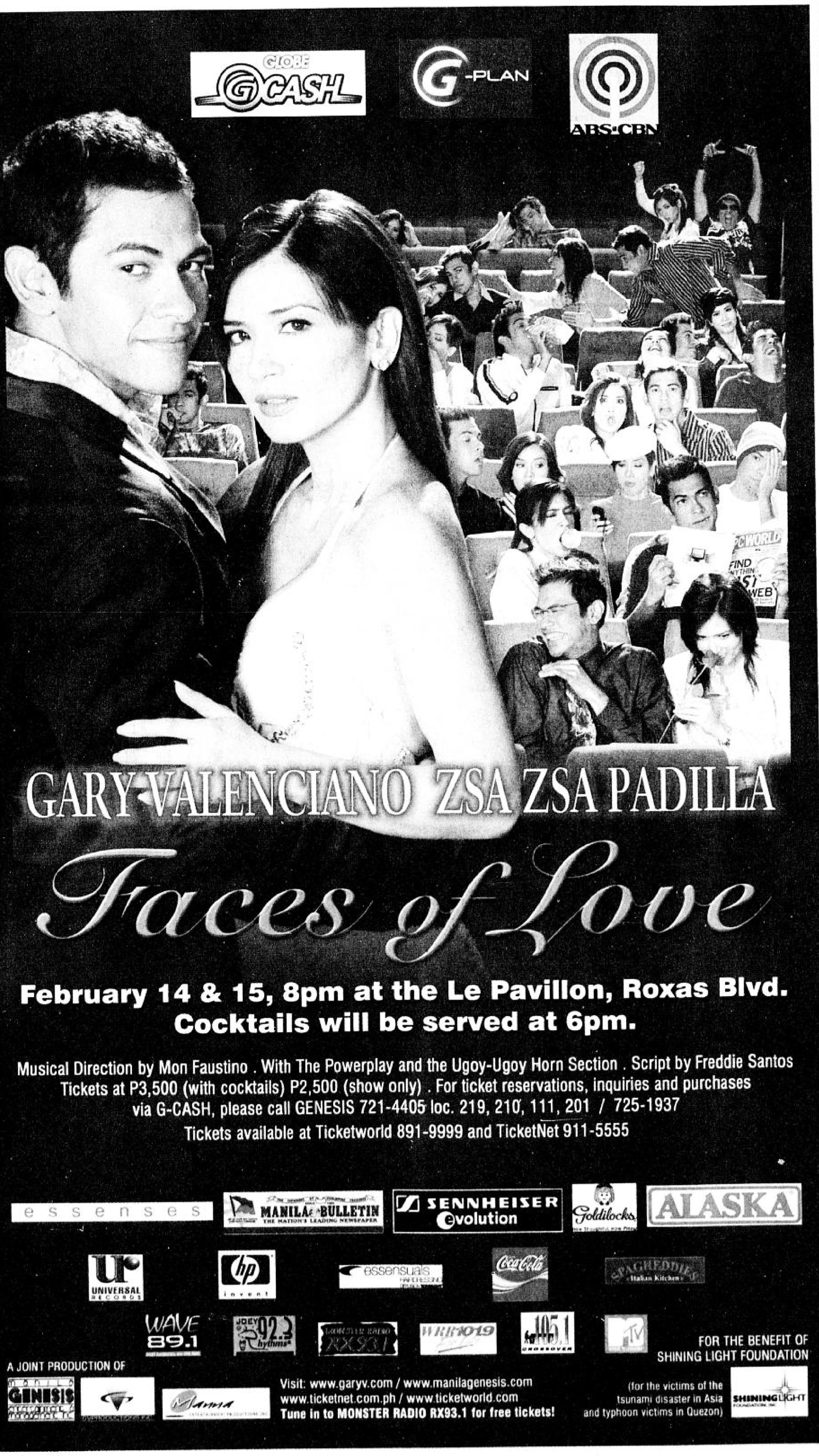
16. Sally Kellerman to Robert Duvall in "M.A.S.H."

17. Robert Benchley to Ginger Rogers in "The Major and the Minor."

18. Bette Davis to Richard Travis in "The Man Who Came to Dinner."

19. Woody Allen to Diane Keaton in "Manhattan."

20. Betsy Blair to Ernest Borgnine in "Marty."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FOXX. Hung out night and day with soul singer Ray Charles.

Celebs . . .

From page A4-1

gamut of emotions from A to B—and kept thinking, "Katharine Hepburn is a very daunting mountain to attempt to scale."

Looking and sounding nothing like Hepburn, Blanchett concentrated on the actress' accent, gestures and high spirit, thanks to a unique seminar conducted for her by director and film maven Martin Scorsese on Hepburn's art. "Marty liberated me. He did not want an imitation," she said.

Jamie Foxx went one better than either Blanchett or DiCaprio—he hung out with soul singer Ray Charles, night and day as the song goes, so that he could play him in "Ray." He even played duets with him on the piano.

If this year's crop of Oscar hopefuls have a theme, it is: "Whose life is it anyway?" Just ask Charlize Theron.

Worst director

The "biopic" has long been such a Hollywood staple that almost everyone seems to have had a movie made about him or her, from world conqueror Alexander the Great to Ed Wood, the world's worst director.

And, it is a form that actors love—there's nothing like putting on 30 pounds and making yourself look as ugly as hell to kickstart your career. Just ask Theron who did just that to play a real-life serial killer in "Monster," a role for which she won an Oscar last year.

Critics and industry experts agree this year's crop of film biographies has been as strong, or even stronger than ever.

DiCaprio, Foxx, Don Cheadle, who plays Paul Rusesabagina, the heroic hotel keeper in "Hotel Rwanda," and Johnny Depp, who plays "Peter Pan" creator James M. Barrie in "Finding Neverland" constitute four of the five best-acting nominations for the Oscars, which will be awarded on Feb. 27.

Real-life stories—or real-life stories squeezed through the prism of Hollywood movie-making—also make up three of the best picture Oscar nominations: Hughes biography, "The Aviator," the J.M. Barrie story, "Finding Neveriand" and the Ray Charles biography, "Ray." The foreign film Oscar nominations have two real-life dramas, one about a paralyzed man's 32-year-long fight to die in "The Sea Inside," and the other about Hitler's bunker suicide, "The Downfall."

Categories

Other categories have their sprinkling of reality as well, including best supporting actress, where Blanchett's Hepburn goes up against Laura Linney playing sex expert Alfred Kinsey's long-suffering wife in "Kinsey" and Sophie Okonedo plays the endangered wife in "Hotel Rwanda."

In a recent interview with Reuters, Foxx was asked how he prepared for his role. He said Charles, who died last summer at age 73, simply let him into his world.

"Watching Ray Charles when he wasn't talking to me was the best. It was watching him when he was talking to other people, watching his mannerisms, watching how he orders his food, how he talks to his kids, how he conducts business," he said.

Foxx added: "We know Ray Charles the performer, we know the Ray Charles who was being interviewed. But, it's the quiet moments, like at 6:30 p.m. on a Sunday, that you want to capture in this movie. We were trying to get to that."

Blessing

And Ray Charles did nothing but help "The minute we met each other and started playing the piano to each other, it was a given that he was giving his blessing . . . That's when you knew that it was time to go to work. I mean, the man himself said, 'You got it. The kid's got it.' When he said that, it was time to go to work, man." *Reuters*

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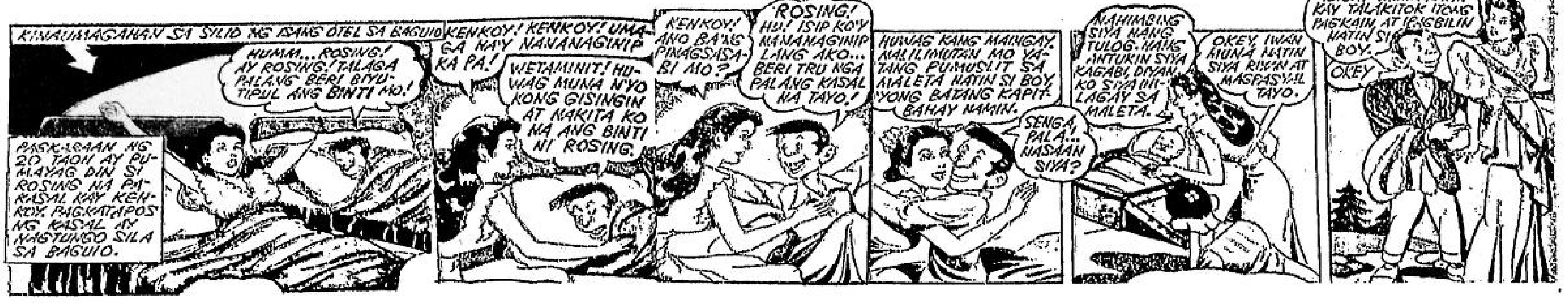
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OKEY

Cynically utilitarian approach compromises new talk show

By Nestor U. Torre

ABUNDA. More thought, time and respect needed.

LAST Saturday, we gave Channel 2's new morning show, "Homeboy," a positive review. However, the program's telecast a few days later indicates that the show still has more fine-tuning to do.

This time, we'd like to focus on a less cut-and-dried and more subtle aspect of work on TV—namely, its responsibility, not just to its audience, but to its guests.

The telecast in question focused its discussion on the controversial topic of polygamy. Yes, the old and reprehensible way of life, love and lust continues to be practised by some people to this day, in one form or other.

Controversial

Program host Boy Abunda talked to a number of those people, plus their partners and children. At first, the talk was both informative and instructive. After a while, however, we felt that the "spicy" nature of the controversial topic was being stressed too much, and genuine understanding and insight were compromised.

This is the danger with handling "hot" topics on TV: They can end up being focused on mainly for their scandal value, for ratings' sake.

This utilitarian approach is reprehensible because it exploits a sensitive topic for its melodramatic and "entertainment" aspects.

The result is, the pain felt by the victims (partners and children) of polygamists is made light of. How cynical can you get?

Suffering

We also fault the show for having so many guests that it couldn't give enough time to each suffering person's story. This further demeans the guests, because their traumatic experiences are made short shrift of, as the show picks only a few quotable sound bites from each guest, and then moves on to the next.

A third problem was the show's tendency to naively take each guest's statements at face value, without digging deeper into the awesomely complex issues seething beneath the surface.

The worst instance of this was the motorcab driver who had two "wives," both of whom lived in the same house with their respective sets of children.

The show oversimplified this psychologically complex situation, and effectively demeaned the feelings of the man's "beloved" victims.

Too lightweight

When the telecast ended, we realized that the show was too lightweight a forum to do justice to the difficult topic it had chosen to discuss. We hope that the program learns from this unfortunate experience, and refrains from tackling similarly daunting subject matter in future telecasts.

Or, if it does deal with other complex topics, host Boy Abunda and the show's staffers shouldn't rely on layman's knowledge and the insufficient advice of a few resource persons. Instead, they should more responsibly give their topics and guests the thought, time and respect that are their due.

Parade of twins

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE FIRST gathering of twins and multiple births was held last year in Intramuros, where about 500 participants registered. It was organized by Natalie C. Palanca, who has twin grandchildren.

Officers of the Association of Twins and Multiple Births include Rolando L. Sarreal (chairman), Palanca (president), Dr. Rebecca B. Singson (vice president), Arah H. Burgos (secretary), Orlando L. Sarreal (treasurer) and Miguel and Martin Manese (PR officers).

Assistance

The association will address the needs of and provide assistance to impoverished twins.

The 2nd Annual Festival of Twins and Multiple Births will be held on Feb. 19 at the Rajah Soliman plaza in front of Malate Church and Baywalk.

There will be magicians, food booths, arts and crafts, raffles, games and a talent show from 2 to 7 p.m. There will be prizes for the most colorfully dressed, the most number of twins in the family, the youngest, oldest, tallest and smallest twins, etc.

Identical twins result from a single fertilized egg that splits after conception. These twins have the same sex and similar foot and hand prints, but different fingerprints and teeth marks.

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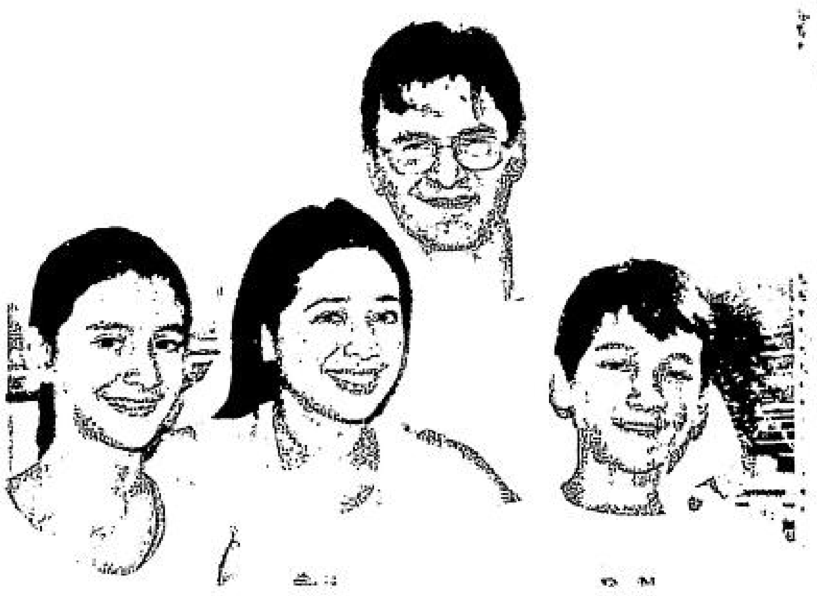
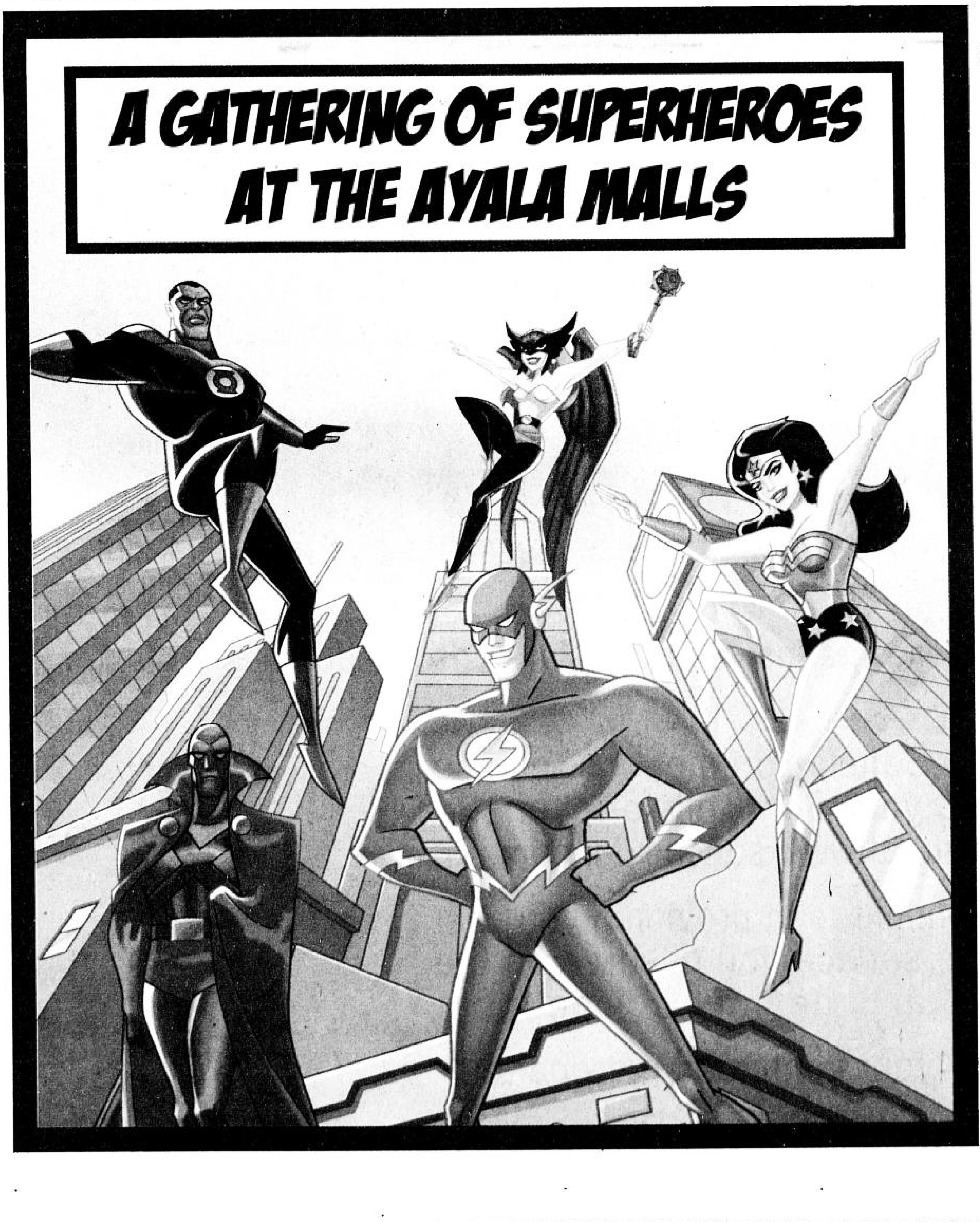


DR. Rebecca Singson, center, with husband Luciano Zahar and twins Gia and Gio.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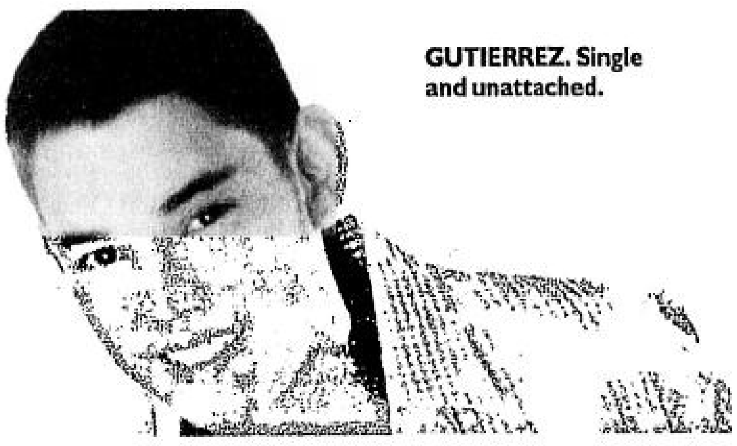
SATURDAY *Special*

Stars share thoughts on love and heartbreak

By Jocelyn Valle



GUTIERREZ. Single and unattached.

JUST because you are young, rich, famous and heartbreakingly handsome, that doesn't mean you're immune to heartbreak. Take it from some of the hottest stars in the biz today. Here are their thoughts on courtship, love, heartaches and plans for Valentine's:

Richard Gutierrez, for one, admits to having been turned down by objects of his affection, especially when he was in high school. "I spent most of it in the US, where I moved from school to school. I've had lots of challenges in life, and I've been emotionally scarred. It's tough, but it's made me a sensitive person. Now, I'm healed."

Leading lady

The "Mulawin" hottie, whose immediate ex is Fil-Australian beauty Anne Curtis, is currently being linked to his leading lady in the fantasy series and the current movie, "Let the Love Begin," Angel Locsin. He reveals that no girl has ever made him cry.

He adds that aggressive and high-maintenance girls turn him off, while smart ones get his attention. At the moment, though, the young man said to have inherited his father Eddie Gutierrez's charms insists that he's single and unattached.

"I have no time to court anybody, or even to go out on dates," he says, shaking his head. "In fact, on Valentine's Day, I'll have tapings. *Ang mga katrabaho ko lang ang kadate ko.*"

But, when does Richard know that he's falling in love? "When my world starts revolving around that person," he smiles.

"Never *pa akong nabasted,*" discloses Marco Alcaraz, one of the emerging TV and movie stars from the ABS-CBN lot. "Because I'm not the type of person *na,* when I find a girl attarctive, *liligawan ko na. Hindi ako sigurista,* but I get to know the girl first until we become friends.

"Based on my experience, *lahat ng naging* girlfriends *ko, dinaan ko sa* friendship, that

STARS/ A5-2

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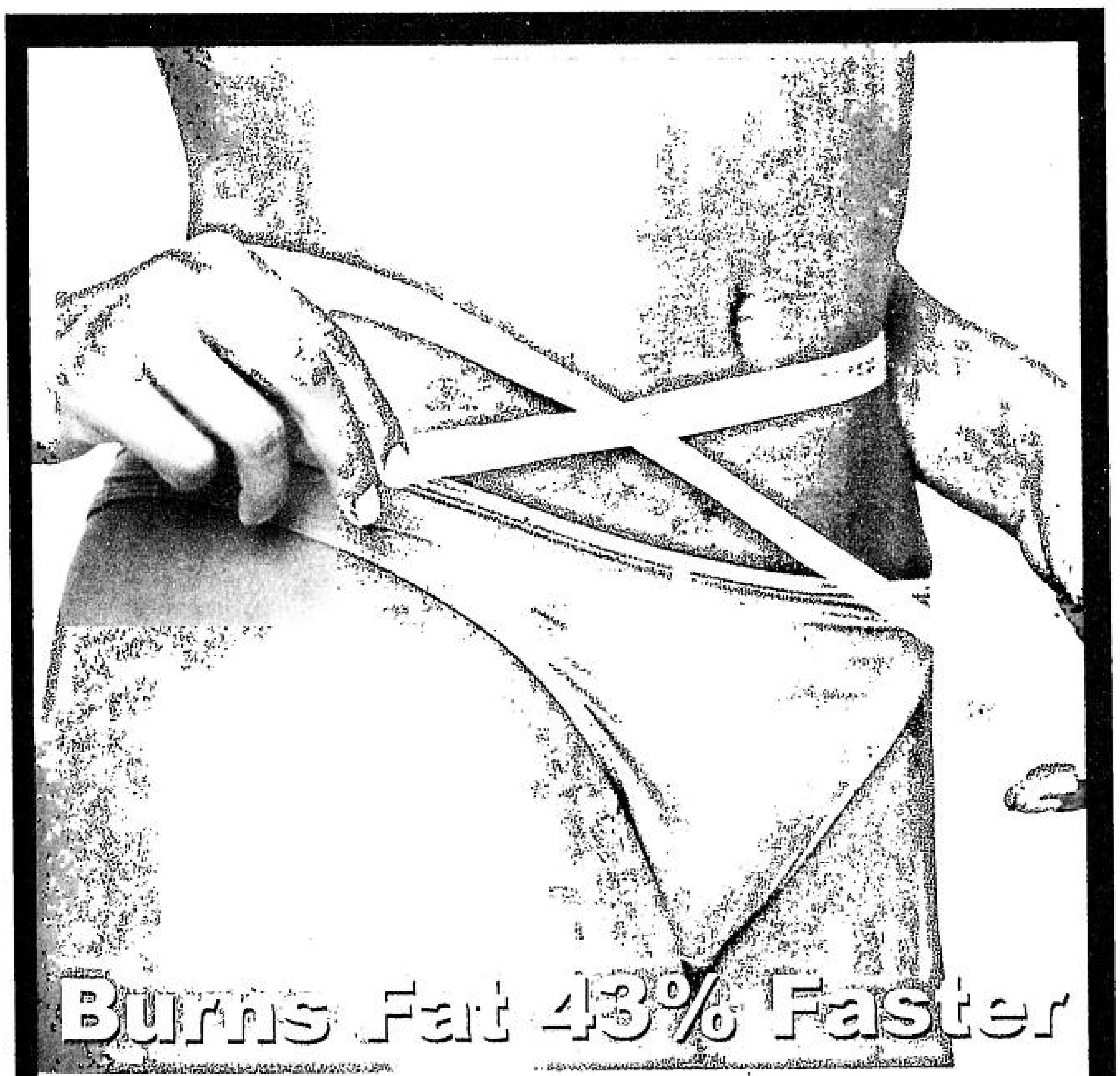
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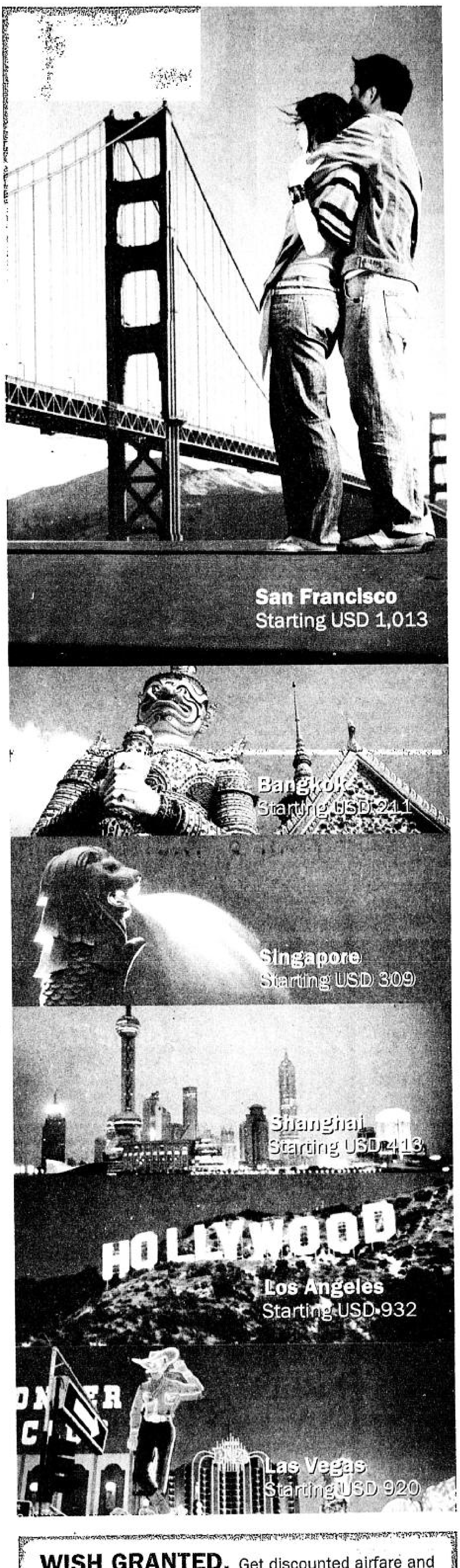
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VISA
All it takes.

New talents shine in Marian film

By Nestor U. Torre

CINE Suerte's new religious film, "Birhen ng Manaoag" (opening March 9) topbills a young cast led by gifted new talents Ina Feleo and Matthew Hunt.

They play key roles in Ben Yalung's film about compelling tales of life-changing miracles that vivify the triumph of the spirit—precisely the sort of film we need during these cynical times.

Ina Feleo plays the Virgin Mary. The beautiful and talented young actress' thespic pedigree is matchless: Her parents are Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen.

Bayanihan dancer

Only 19 years old, Ina is a creative writing major at the Ateneo de Manila, where she acts in Tanghalang Ateneo plays. She is also a Bayanihan dancer, and used to be an ice-skating standout.

"Birhen ng Manaoag" is Ina's first substantial experience in mainstream cinema, and we expect other producers and filmmakers to take note of her promise, and cast her in their own movies later this year.

Matthew Hunt portrays Jesus Christ in the film's crucifixion *cum* vision scene. He has appeared in a number of Hollywood movies shot here, like "Brokedown Palace" and "Noriega."

HUNT. Plays Jesus Christ in "Birhen ng Manaoag."

The Fil-Am actor also does voice-overs at special events, and writes and directs corporate events and children's shows.

Yalung's film also showcases Jodi Santamaria, who plays her first full-length role in the religious production. She is cast as Ana, an investigative journalist seeking the truth about the Virgin of Manaoag and its miracles, despite the negative attitude of skeptics.

Jodi has appeared in other standout films like Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" and "Noon at Ngayon."

Seminarian

Marco Alcaraz plays Paul, a seminarian who's about to be ordained. Before that happens, however, personal resentments from the past come back to haunt him, and turn him into a skeptic whose faith is severely tested.

Marco used to be a basketball player, until a knee injury prompted him to shift to modeling and a career in show business. He has appeared on the big screen in "It Might Be You," "Beautiful Life" and "Aishite Imasu."

For her part, Bianca King plays Mary Ann, a teenager whose relationship with her mother (Cherry Pie Picache) sours up after she reveals that she has gotten pregnant by her boyfriend. Mary Ann is forced to leave home and fend for herself.

Fashion shoots

Bianca is a mainstay on TV shows like GMA-7's "Mulawin," "SOP Gigsters" and "Love to Love." She is also a commercial model, and is a stylist for fashion shoots. On top of her hectic show biz schedule, Bianca still finds time to continue with her Liberal Arts studies at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

These five young talents play significant roles in "Birhen ng Manaoag," which is scripted by Christian Vallez. Their participation makes Yalung's film appealing to young viewers, and that's a good thing because the production's uplifting spiritual message can do a lot to inspire troubled youths to invite God to similarly work miracles in their own lives.

FELEO. First substantial experience in mainstream cinema.

Stars share thoughts on love and heartbreak

From page A5-1

way, the relationship will last longer. We remain friends even when we part ways."

Marco, who first got the public's attention as Axel, the rival of John Lloyd Cruz to Bea Alonzo's heart on "It Might Be You" observes that having a bit of fame has its pros and cons in the love department. "Yes, it's easier now to get dates, but you're not sure if they're serious with you," he shrugs.

Marco declares that he's not in a relationship at the moment, that's why he'll "bury" himself with work this Valentine weekend. He'll host a dating game and the Davao leg of the kissing event, "Lovapalooza," where he'll lock lips—albeit for just 10 seconds—with Angelica Panganiban.

"I don't believe in celebrating Valentine's Day the traditional way," he says. "I'd rather spend it at home with a loved one and prepare dinner for her. You can earn back the money you spend at fancy restaurants or concerts, but the time and effort you put in to prepare are priceless. And, anytime *naman*, you can make it Valentine's Day with your loved one."

Going steady

The most memorable V-Day for Marco happened two years ago when he was still going steady with a Cebuana. He recalls that his flight to the Queen City of the South was canceled, so he begged for a seat on another plane.

He arrived in the afternoon. That evening, she gave him her "yes."

Sadly, they eventually called it quits. "I wouldn't say that long-distance relationships don't last," he avers. "But, it can be very expensive. *Kung kayo, kayo talaga. So, hindi lang talaga kami.*"

Just like Marco, Drew Arellano uses friendship to get the girl he desires. *"Hindi talaga ako nanliligaw.* It's not my style," he admits.

A case in point is actress-VJ Iya Villania, his current girlfriend. The two met on the defunct teen series, "Click," a couple of years ago and became good pals.

Instead of losing touch when the show folded last year, the cute couple took their friendship a step further.

ALCARAZ. Frienship is important.

ARELLANO. Courting is not his style.

The "Unang Hirit" and "Wazzup, Wazzup" mainstay shares that he and Iya will celebrate V-Day two days earlier when they host a "Lovapalooza" segment. "On the 14th and 15th *kasi*, she'll be a guest in Ogie Alcasid's concert," he reasons. "And I also have

STARS/ A5-3

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12:10 / 3:00 / 5:50 / 9:00
ALFIE
12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
DREAM BOY
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
ELEKTRA
12:25 / 2:40 / 4:55 / 7:10 / 9:25
FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30
LET THE LOVE BEGIN
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
MEET THE FOCKERS
12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
12:25 / 3:20 / 6:15 / 9:10
SHALL WE DANCE
12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
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ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:10
❷ DREAM BOY
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:10
❸ PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
11:35 / 2:30 / 5:25 / 8:30
❹ ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❺ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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CENTER EVENTS

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10	*Free Roses & Popcorn For Couples* during 1st & last screenings *Feb. 13 & 14* *The Aviator* By Invitation Only Premiere *Feb. 21*
ARANETA COLISEUM	*Greatest Hits of Motown* *Febr. 13 & 14*
GATEWAY MALL	performances by *Skarlet Feb. 11, Isha Feb. 14, UP Singing Ambassadors Feb. 12 & Mishka Adams Feb. 25* *Rustan's Department Store Lifestyle & Home Exhibit extended up to Feb. 20*
COLISEUM CIRCLE	*Jazz music, flowers and free romantic rides for all diners Feb.11 to 14*
SHOPWISE STRIP	*Acoustic Performances at Gloria Jeans Feb. 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 23 & 26*
FARMERS PLAZA	*Love Fortune Telling* free for every P300 purchase *Feb.11 to 14*

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3 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13
4 (DOLBY) SHALL WE DANCE R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 R13

Cinema 2000
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Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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1 DREAMBOY
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

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3 DREAMBOY

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5 DREAMBOY

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
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2 ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 DREAMBOY
5 (DOLBY) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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3 (DTS) ELEKTRA
4 GOLD (DTS) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
5 GOLD (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 GOLD (SDDS) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DREAMBOY
8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
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2 DREAMBOY
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

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4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

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4 DREAMBOY

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2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
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4 (DTS) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

Cine Nepo
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1 DREAMBOY
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION
4 (DTS) DREAMBOY

Centre Plaza Cinema
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2 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
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4 SHALL WE DANCE

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2 SEX SCANDAL
3 DREAMBOY
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 DREAMBOY
5 ELEKTRA

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3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY) SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION

Fiesta World Mall
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2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 DREAMBOY

Berma Cinema
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2 KUNG FU HUSTLE

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Cesar, Sunshine renew marital vows in Thailand

TO celebrate Valentine's Day in a special way, Cesar Montano and Sunshine Cruz are taking a Thai Airways "smooth as silk" flight to Thailand to renew their marital vows and join the Trang Underwater Wedding Ceremony from Feb. 15 to 17, along with other lovey-dovey couples from different countries.

MONTAGE

The unique tribute to undying love is a cooperative venture between Thai Airways International, the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Trang Province Chamber of Commerce and the United Broadcast Cooperation Group.

Venue is Pak Meng Beach, which boasts of spectacular marine resources, temples, rainforests and limestone caves.

The Underwater Wedding Ceremony's 2000 edition won the Guinness record for the world's largest underwater wedding ceremony.

This year, dancers will greet Cesar and Sunshine when they arrive at Trang Airport. After checking in at the Thuurin Thana Hotel, they will participate in a grand parade.

The elaborate Thai wedding rites will be held on Feb. 16, followed by a sumptuous feast, dancing and fireworks at the beach. The three-day lovefest culminates on Feb. 17 with a Sri Trang tree-planting ceremony at the Peninsular Botanic Gardens.

Thai Airways flies from Manila 10 times weekly to Bangkok, and daily to Osaka. Call 812-4744 or log on to www.thaiairways.com.

Dreamscape

Dreamscape at Robinsons Galleria presents live performances by XY Kidz, the country's youngest boy band, at 3 p.m. on Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 and March 5 and 6.

The young performers are Miguel Aguila, 10; Deandro Almariego, 12; Carlo Ocampo, 10; and Arjohn Teeson, 11. Call 636-2911 or 631-7594.

Shows on Nickelodeon

Saturdays on the Nickelodeon channel boast of a new programming block made up of shows like "My Dad, the Rockstar," "All Grown Up," "Drake and Josh," and "Unfabulous," starring Julia Roberts' young niece, Emma.

Meanwhile, "SpongeBob Squarepants the Movie" will reach local theater screens soon.

On Feb. 26 and 27, tune in to the Nick channel for more action, surprises and strange situations with SpongeBob Squarepants and Patrick.

Finally, the Kids' Choice Awards are back. Get ready to vote for your favorite TV shows, music, sports, movies, etc.! Log on to www.nicksplat.com.

'Sex Guru'

Hotbabe Asia Agcaoili is the host and guru in the sexy instructional video, "Sexy Guru," released by Viva Video. It brings excitement back to the bedroom with new pointers in the art of sensual massage, encouraging heightened sensitivity, romantic interaction and experimentation.

The instructional production on DVD and VCD also includes tips on selecting the right massage and aromatherapy oils, and setting the mood with scented candles and soft music.

THE MONTANOS. Unique tribute to undying love.

Sterling Campus Idol

The Sterling Campus Idol talent search has held 15 on-campus auditions that have discovered a number of talents who can make it big in show business.

One of them is Jessa Mae Gabon of Sta. Elena High School in Marikina City, who topped the solo singer category in the high school level.

Sterling Campus Idol is presented by Sterling notebooks, Avanti ballpens and Pentel Writing Instruments. The DL Media Focus Int'l. production is directed by Pat Perez. Call 886-4407.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Feb. 12 at 10 a.m., "The Age of Innocence." 9 p.m., "Mad Dog and Glory." 10:30 p.m., "Empire of the Sun." Feb. 13 at 5:45 p.m., "Owning Mahowney." Feb. 14 at 6:45 p.m., "Dolores Claiborne." 1:45 a.m., "For Whom the Bell Tolls." Feb. 15 at 7:45 a.m., "The Prince and the Showgirl." 2:15 p.m., "Altered States." 4 p.m., "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure." 10:45 p.m., "Ghostbusters." Feb. 16 at 9 p.m., "Scent of A Woman." 1:40 a.m., "Mad Dog and Glory."

On Cinemax, Feb. 12 at 2:10 p.m., "Babe." 3:40 p.m., "White Oleander." 9 p.m., "Cat in the Hat." Feb. 12 at 4 p.m., "Gattaca." 5:45 p.m., "Catch Me If You Can." 8 p.m., "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade." 10:05 p.m., "Lost in Translation." Feb. 14 at 2 p.m., "Punch-Drunk Love." 3:30 p.m., "Sense and Sensibility." Feb. 15 at 1:50 p.m., "The Mirror Has Two Faces." Feb. 16 at 9 p.m., "City by the Sea." 11:45 p.m., "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom."

GABON. Topped solo singer category of talent search.

XY KIDS. Youngest boy band in the country.

Stars. . .

From page A5-2

work in the morning."

Drew tells us that Iya is the only girl in the biz that he ever went out with and, being in the same field hasn't posed problems for them. "We enjoy being with each other," he grins. "Flings are just a waste of time," he maintains. *"Sakit pa sa ulo."*

The friendship route also works for Dennis Trillo. *"Makikita mo ang totoo n'yang ugali kapag kaibigan mo pa lang,"* he explains. "Also, I don't go for girls *na alam kong wala akong pag-asa, kaya hindi pa ako nababasted."*

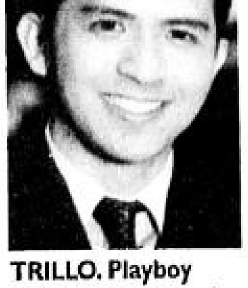
But, he also has his share of heartaches. "I don't dwell on them," he shares. "I hang out with friends or I stay home and reflect. I try to always look at the brighter side of life."

Memories

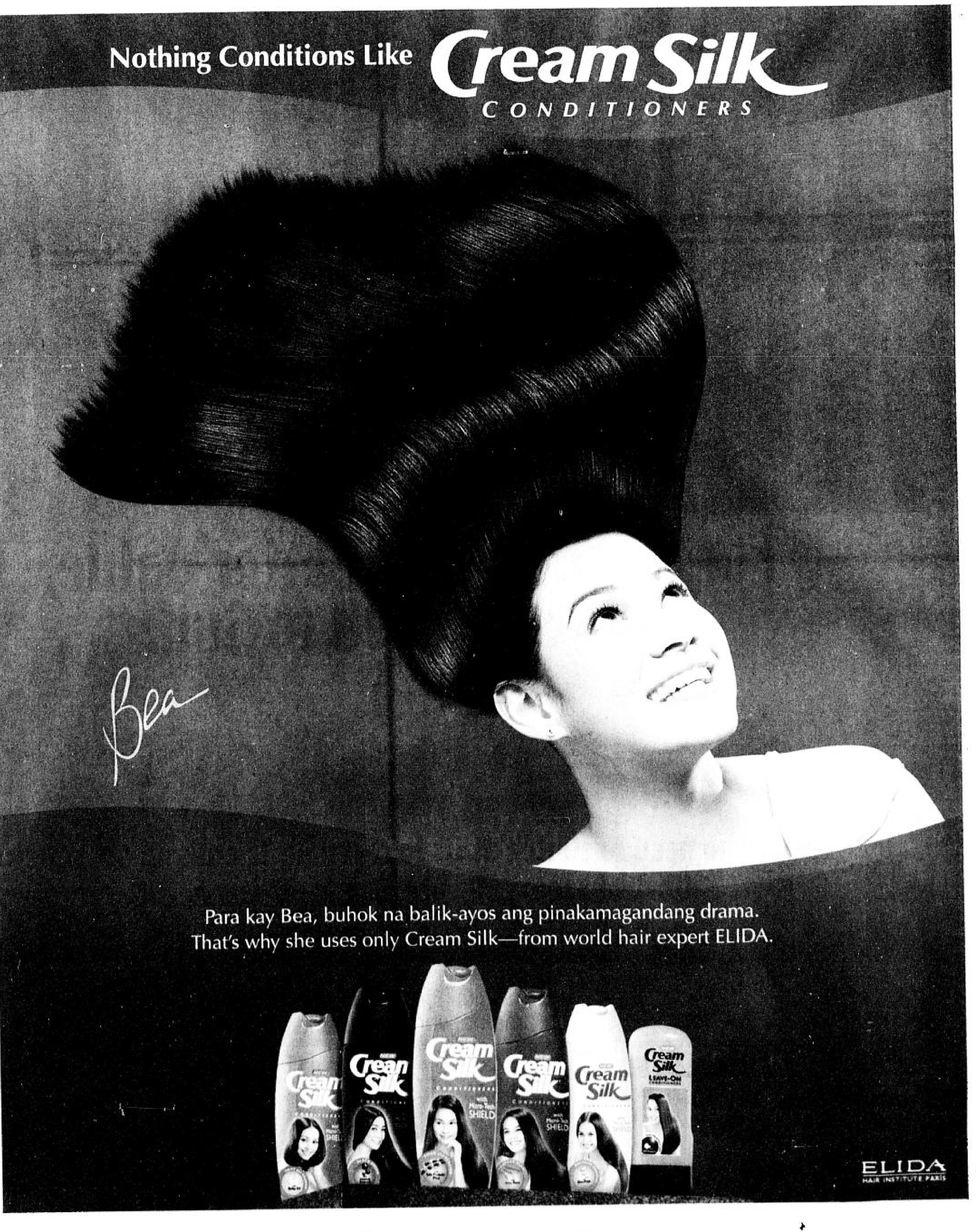
Dennis, who shines as Richard's nemesis on "Mulawin" and as Judy Ann Santos's gay best friend in "Ashite Imasu," believes that being an actor makes him attractive to the female species.

"But, I don't take advantage of them," he stresses. "Some women think *na mas* playboy *ka kapag sikat ka,* but that doesn't work for me. I'm a one-woman man."

His love life is currently zero, though. So, he's predicting a cold Valentine's Day this year. "It falls on a Monday, so I'll be working. If we wrap up early, maybe I can still go out with friends and watch a movie."



TRILLO. Playboy image doesn't work for him.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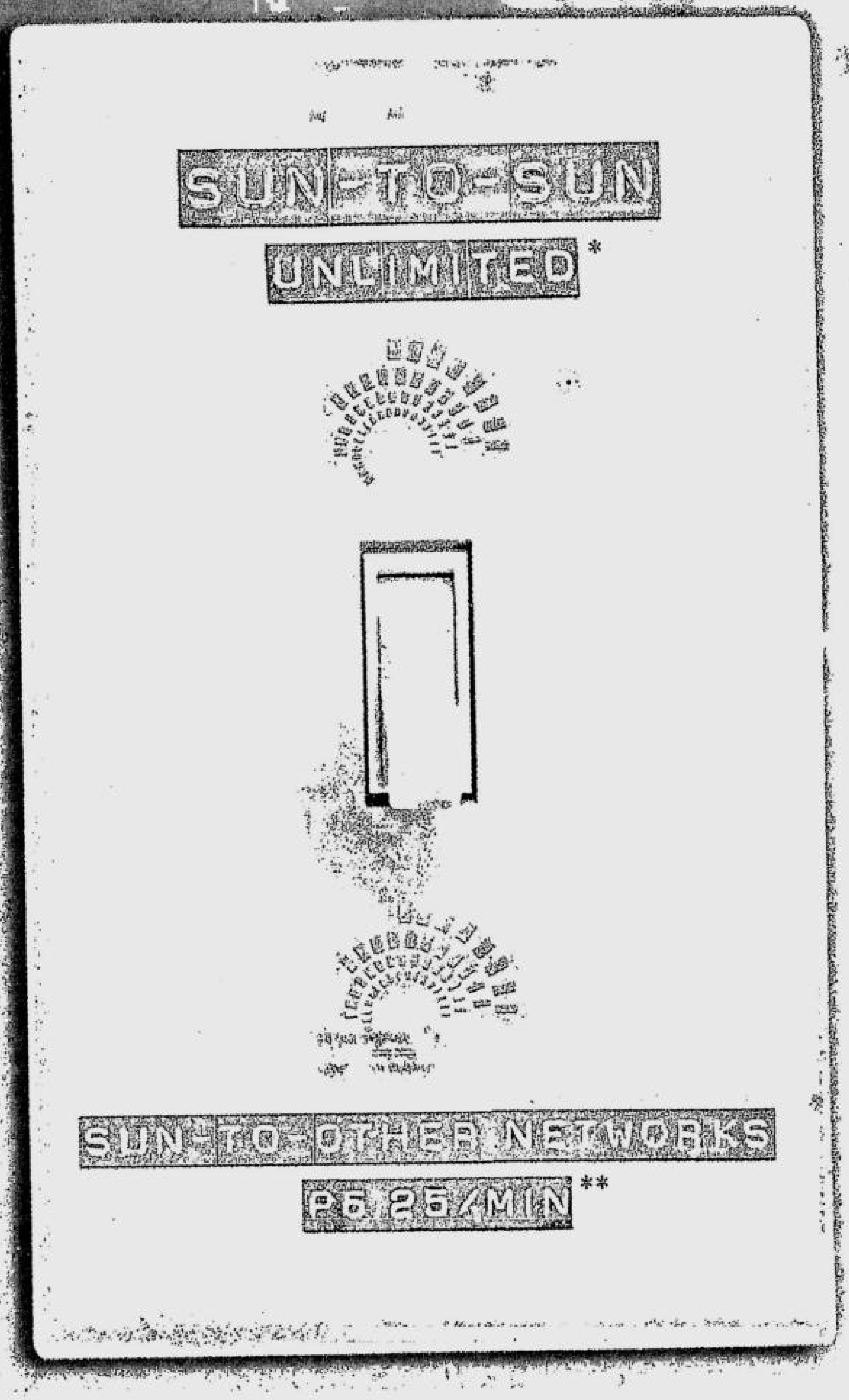
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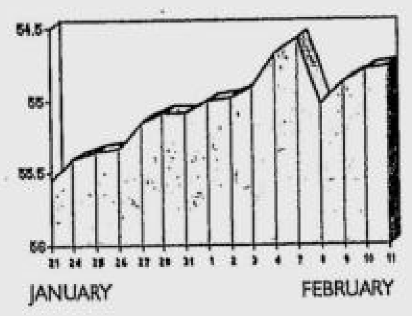
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

BSP expects surge in 'hot money' inflow

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 54.77= $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 11, 2005

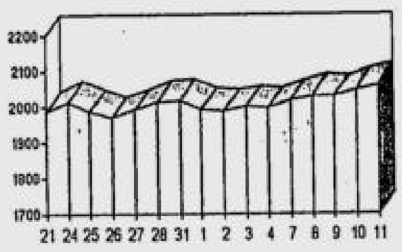
¥ 105.64 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Feb. 10, 2005

GOLD: $ 414.00-414.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 8, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close slightly higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARE prices closed 0.65 percent higher yesterday on continued support for stocks with strong profit prospects, pushing the main index to a fresh five-year high, dealers said.

However, bouts of profit-taking limited the gains, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 13.24 points to 2,061.48 after trading between 2,050.21 and 2,066.40. This was the best finish since Jan. 21, 2000, when the market closed at 2,062.66.

Turnover was 3.08 billion shares worth P1.9 billion.

The broader all-shares index rose 16.97 points to 1,196.24.

Gainers beat losers 72 to 35, with 42 stocks unchanged. *AFP*

By Doris C. Dumlao

NET inflow of "hot money" or foreign portfolio investments may surge threefold this year to nearly $2 billion from the measly $661 million in 2003 due to a more bullish investor sentiment, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas projected.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Philippines was finally getting a bigger share of foreign investments going to Asia, but noted that the country would have to prove its commitment to fiscal reforms to sustain such renewed interest.

"It could easily be three times if all reforms will push through," Buenaventura said.

"And if foreign inflow remains strong, we (BSP) don't even have to borrow (from the offshore market) in November," he said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will spend at least $1 billion for its external debt servicing this year, part of which was maturing in November and originally intended to be covered by fresh foreign borrowings in the second semester.

Of the BSP's financing requirements this year, about $800 million consist of principal and interest payments to foreign commercial creditors while the remainder represented obligations to bilateral and multilateral institutions, including the International Monetary Fund.

"The perception is beginning to change for the better, although the danger is if we fail to meet expectations," Buenaventura said.

He said investors were closely monitoring whether the government would be able to raise the P80 billion in additional annual tax revenue.

Buenaventura said the BSP's optimistic outlook on portfolio investment this year was based on recent favorable indicators.

He noted that net portfolio inflow to the Philippines hit $427.2 million in the first three weeks of January alone. This represented a very strong opening for the year, particularly in comparison to the $12.9 million cumulative net inflow for the comparable period in 2004 and the $486.8 million figure for the whole of 2004.

The BSP chief said fresh initial public offerings in the stock market planned by very good Philippine companies—such as GMA Network Inc., SM Investments and Mirant Philippines—would also further attract foreign funds to the stock market.

The strong inflow has in turn lifted the peso to the 54-level against the US dollar.

Recently, the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index has also surged to five-year highs.

Due to the resurgence of portfolio inflow, Buenaventura said the BSP's gross international re-

BSP/B3

Gov't seen raising $1.6B from sale of SMC stake

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MALACAÑANG is studying how to go about selling a 41-percent block of shares in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., which is expected to fetch about $1.64 billion, incoming Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said yesterday.

The block of shares include the 27 percent held by the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the 14 percent combined shares of the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

Purisima, who would leave his current post as trade secretary by Monday, said President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered him to sell all government shares in SMC after announcing the plan during a talk with media in Quezon province during the weekend.

"This would be one of my priorities as the new finance secretary," he said. "I will be working closely with (presidential legal adviser) Merceditas Gutierrez to tie up the loose legal ends in this undertaking."

"There is no timetable yet for this project," he added. "We want to do a thorough study so that there will be no legal stumbling blocks when it is time to proceed."

Purisima also said the government would hire a financial adviser for the project.

Asked whether the government had a target amount to raise, Purisima declined to give a figure, saying the shares would be sold by public bidding and that the pricing would depend on the market.

The official said the sale of the government shares on SMC, which currently has a market capitalization of $4 billion, would be good for the economy as it would raise the country's foreign exchange reserves.

"The sale would certainly attract foreign buyers considering the amount involved," Purisima said.

According to a Malacañang statement, Ms Arroyo told media in Mulanay, Quezon, last Saturday that the SMC shares would be sold "to further boost the agriculture business" in the country.

The announcement came in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling that declared the coconut levy funds as public funds.

In a disclosure dated Feb. 10, SMC reported that its net income reached P8.08 billion in 2004 or 10 percent higher than the previous year's due to strong beer sales.

The conglomerate's consolidated revenue grew 18 percent to P174.7 billion while operating income rose more than 20 percent.

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TOYOTA

Trash fund

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

AS THE PROUD father of a 21-year old young man who is starting a career in banking, I believe it is now my duty to help my son become a well-functioning member of society.

And so I am teaching him how to cheat on tax.

No, I mean, well, I just feel I must tell him, and other young people like him, how only the biggest of the big earners can actually cheat on tax payments in this country.

According to tax experts, who showed us incontrovertible facts and figures to support their point, businessmen and professionals do most, if not all, of the cheating.

They said that it is close to impossible for us salaried people down here to cheat on taxes because of the gross income taxation.

You see, one thing about us, as a people, is that regardless of ideology, social status, or sexual preference, every Filipino hates anything with the word "tax" on it.

That's why this cute administration is campaigning for public acceptance of the expanded VAT bill, which passed the House but is in peril in the Senate.

Senators do not want to approve the expanded VAT because, as one of them intimated to his clients, they still want to be re-elected.

Apparently they look at the expanded VAT as an unpopular measure, unlike say the so-called "sin" tax, which was slapped earlier on cigarettes, liquor and beer.

I want to tell you all young people out there that in the "sin" tax measure, certain senators made a lot of money from the tobacco lobby. Tax free money, at that!

* * *

AS FOR THE latest on the new "sin" tax, the BIR is still trying to finish the implementing rules and regulations. These need the approval of the finance secretary.

From what I gathered, somebody high up at the Department of Finance wanted the BIR to rush the rules.

Not for anything else, really, but the DOF bigshot just wanted the rules to be ready for signing by retiring Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong.

Certain lobby groups perhaps do not want the implementing rules to go through the scrutiny of incoming Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, who's still with the DTI.

Purisima already sent word to the lobby groups, plus of course their "connection" in the DOF, that he himself wanted to review the rules.

You see, the money-spinning tobacco lobby already shifted to the "sin" tax law's implementing rules and regulations.

One local cigarette company and, most probably, a foreign group that's one of the biggest tobacco lobbyists in the world, are watching out for the implementing rules.

Word goes around that they spent a fortune for the "sin" tax lobby in Congress. They got what they paid for, and they don't want the rules to cancel out everything.

* * *

IN THE BICAMERAL conference on the "sin" tax, according to one senator, a lawmaker brilliantly sneaked in a provision that would be good for those two tobacco companies.

They are not, by the way, again NOT, Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morris.

Anyway, doing all the lobbying and strategizing for them were famous figures from the academe, a former DOF official, and a crafty PR group.

During the heated debate in the bicameral conference, according to my senator-source, compromises had to be made left and right to save the "sin" tax measure.

Just when everybody thought the measure was a goner, the most vocal lawmaker relented and accepted some compromises.

That was the right timing to sneak in a provision which, although harmless at first glance, could destroy the entire excise tax system on tobacco altogether.

And based on what I hear, it is precisely what Purisima, as the incoming finance secretary, is trying to prevent.

Hint—the provision had something to do with new brands of cigarettes.

* * *

DOWN here in my barangay, we know nothing about trust funds, except that it is all about ... well, "trust."

I mean, if you are the trust fund manager, you just don't—never ever—play around with the trust given to you by the client. Otherwise, it would be called trash fund.

Anyway, recent news talked a lot about trust funds of pre-need companies, such as the controversial College Assurance Plan, or CAP, and TPG Corp.

Now, thanks to certain senators, whose agenda are still unknown, everybody already knows about the problems of CAP.

But the news about TPG had as much the same significance as CAP's, if you ask me, because it had something to do with trust in financial institutions.

It seems that a businessman named Carlos Araneta, who owns the delivery service company LBC, complained to the Bangko Sentral about the TPG trust fund.

He claimed that the trust fund manager, ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners, played around with the trust fund without the knowledge of the owner TPG.

That, down here, is known simply as burglary.

* * *

BASED on reports, Araneta complained that ATR-Kim Eng got millions upon millions from the TPG trust fund to buy into another company. Millions in cash!

According to Araneta, funding for investment should have come from the sale of real estate property in the TPG trust fund—and not from its cash.

It was the sale of the property and the subsequent investment of the proceeds that got the approval of the TPG board.

But then the trust fund manager, which was ATR-Kim Eng, did not follow the plan.

As to why ATR-Kim Eng was so eager to make the investment, and it could not wait for the proceeds from the real property sale before making it, nobody really knows. Even Araneta did not give any reason.

He just said that, up to now, the trust fund manager has yet to make "serious effort" to unload the real estate property in the TPG trust fund.

* * *

ANOTHER thing is, according to Araneta, ATR-Kim Eng even invested the cash of the pre-need company TPG in an unlisted company.

Rules on the investment of trust funds say that if the fund manager wants to buy stocks, they should be those of companies listed in the stock market.

The thing is what will the authorities do about it?

The worst they have always done was, well, WARN the offenders. The SEC even lifts cease and desist orders on pyramiding companies, simply because they promised never to sin again.

I mean, come on, we had a lot of similar incidents in the past, and we never saw anybody go to jail for playing around with other people's money. Not stockbrokers. Not bankers. Nobody has gone to jail. They simply fly out of the country to enjoy their millions.

Such, I want my son to learn, is not what it means to become a well functioning member of society.

PLDT seen to double revenue to P2B in '05

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday said it expected its retail business group to more than double its revenue this year to more than P2 billion from about a billion pesos in 2004, said a ranking PLDT official.

Butch Jimenez, head of PLDT's retail business, said his group would launch an aggressive campaign to increase its market share in the dial-up Internet business using its PLDT Vibe Plan 99.

PLDT chair Manuel Pangilinan said the company would spend about P8 billion to improve its landline business this year, primarily to expand the data services.

"We are doing a big push for DSL," said Pangilinan in an earlier interview. "Very serious efforts are being made to shift to data network. Part of the plan considers VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol).

PLDT's high-speed Internet has more than 40,000 subscribers, and Pangilinan said the target was to double the DSL customers this year.

Jimenez said PLDT intended to capture over 50 percent of the dial-up or narrow band Internet market to complement the telecom giant's position as the dominant player in the high-speed or broadband Internet where it holds 80 percent of the market.

"Our strategy is to capture the narrowband subscribers since they will form the foundation for broadband subscribers in the future," said Jimenez.

PLDT Vibe Plan 99 gives post-paid dial up subscribers more than 99 minutes of Internet access for P99, making the product at par, if not more competitive, than other dial-up Internet Service Providers offering similar plans.

"'Our move can only be good for the public," said Jimenez. "It will give our subscribers affordable access to the Internet."

He added PLDT's new initiatives in dial-up Internet should "provide significant growth in total revenue to the company."

Last year, PLDT upgraded DSL's broadband speed to 512 kilobytes per second for those under plan 2,500 monthly, or 768 kbps for plan 3,000.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF:

SM INVESTMENTS CORPORATION
Registrant

Registration of Securities

x---x

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on February 1, 2005, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of SM Investments Corporation (SMIC) for the registration of 500,000,000 to 565,000,000 common shares with a par value of P10.00 per share. Of these, a minimum of 75,000,000 and a maximum of 140,000,000 shares (consisting of primary shares and secondary shares of up to 25%) of the resulting common shares of stock of SMIC shall be offered to the public at the minimum offer price of P230.00 and a maximum offer price of P300.00 per share.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of the corporation:

Board of Directors

Henry Sy, Sr.	Chairman
Teresita T. Sy	Vice Chairman
Henry Sy, Jr.	Vice Chairman
Harley T. Sy	President
Hans T. Sy	First Executive Vice President
Jose T. Sio	Second Executive Vice President and CFO
Gregory L. Domingo	Independent Director

Executive Officers

Herbert T. Sy	First Executive Vice President
Elizabeth T. Sy	Treasurer
Atty. Corazon I. Morando	Senior Vice President, Legal and Corporate Affairs
Atty. Emmanuel C. Paras	Corporate Secretary
Atty. Epitacio Borcelis Jr.	Assistant Corporate Secretary
Atty. Arthur A. Sy	Assistant Vice President, Legal and Corporate Affairs

The Registration Statement, as well as the papers attached thereto are available for inspection during business hours at the Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA, Quezon City. Copies of the Registration Statement will be furnished to interested parties at such reasonable charge as the Commission may prescribe.

February 11, 2005

Justina Callangan
Director
Securities and Exchange Commission

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[1] Resulting number of shares after reclassification. As of the date of this Notice, the SEC has not yet approved the application for the said reclassification.

SM unit gets nod to hold IPO

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has approved in principle the initial listing of SM Investments Corp., the holding company of mall magnate Henry Sy Sr.

In a memorandum for brokers, the PSE said SMIC initially would list 500 to 600 million common shares with a par value of P10 a share.

SMIC has yet to clarify the terms and conditions of its initial public offering, the PSE said in a statement.

The SM unit earlier filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission an application to conduct its maiden offering.

Sources close to the Sy family said SMIC's rush decision to go public was spurred by the growth in the stock market.

Year to date, the benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index (Phisix) had gained 9.3 percent.

The Phisix soared 26.3 percent in 2004.

In its preliminary prospectus, SMIC said it would offer up to 30 percent of its expanded number of outstanding shares. At a minimum offer of 15 percent of its capital base, SMIC may offer 75 million in new shares.

The actual size of the offering has yet to be set.

CURRENCIES

February 11, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.776458	1.000000	54.7680
Japan	Yen	0.007336	0.009448	0.5174
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451277	1.869100	102.3669
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.099554	0.128215	7.0221
Switzerland	Franc	0.642816	0.827883	45.3415
Canada	Dollar	0.625268	0.805283	44.1037
Singapore	Dollar	0.470096	0.605437	33.1586
Australia	Dollar	0.607652	0.782595	42.8612
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.059679	2.652661	145.2809
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.207056	0.266667	14.6048
Brunei	Dollar	0.468678	0.603610	33.0585
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000108	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.020134	0.025930	1.4201
UAE	Dirham	0.211425	0.272294	14.9130
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.287900	70.5357
Argentina	Peso	0.267053	0.343938	18.8368
Brazil	Real	0.297608	0.383289	20.9920
Denmark	Kroner	0.134377	0.173064	9.4784
India	Rupee	0.017796	0.022920	1.2553
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204358	0.263193	14.4146
Mexico	New Peso	0.069656	0.089710	4.9132
New Zealand	Dollar	0.551422	0.710177	38.8950
Norway	Kroner	0.118668	0.152833	8.3704
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013087	0.016855	0.9231
South Africa	Rand	0.126352	0.162729	8.9123
Korea	Won	0.000744	0.000958	0.0525
Sweden	Kroner	0.109953	0.141609	7.7556
Syria	Pound	0.014958	0.019264	1.0551
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024436	0.031471	1.7236
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000405	0.000522	0.0286

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 11, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	28,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	30	29.5	30	228,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	57.5	57	57.5	669,600
China Banking Corp.	575	575	575	575	9,330
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	48	48	11,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.45	520,000
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	919,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35	35.5	34.5	35.5	6,006,000
Philippine National Bank	28	30	28	30	321,500
Phil. Savings Bank	35	38	35	38	800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15	15	14.75	15	35,200
Security Bank Corp.	33	33.5	33	33.5	33,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	30	29.5	30	57,900
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	30,000
First Abacus Financial	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	70,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2450	2470	2450	2450	1,050
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	91,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	125	125	124	124	2,340
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1780	1780	1780	1780	1,870
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	20,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.64	1.68	1.6	1.68	16,549,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	930	935	930	930	21,700
Ipeople Inc.	4.7	4.75	4.7	4.7	491,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.055	0.05	0.05	700,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.038	0.039	0.037	0.038	6,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	4,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	10,071,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1415	1420	1415	1420	163,010
Ivantage Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	1,200,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	210,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	17.5	18	17.25	17.5	189,800
Manila Electric Co. B	27	28.5	26.5	26.5	3,158,800
Petron Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.7	3.7	4,753,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	10,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.62	1.64	1.6	1.62	1,767,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.88	190,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.5	980,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.44	90,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.44	0.48	0.44	0.47	4,540,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	9,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.45	4.5	4.15	4.2	7,356,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.75	3.9	3.75	3.8	271,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	35	36	35	36	244,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26.5	723,300
RFM Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.77	0.8	290,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	160,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	57.5	42,300
San Miguel Corp. B	78.5	78.5	77	77.5	40,900
Universal Robina Corp.	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	24,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	570,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	75,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	8.4	8.6	8.4	8.6	10,175,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	850,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.9	4.05	3.9	4.05	1,302,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	249,900
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	2,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.92	2.02	1.92	2	1,245,000
APC Group Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.43	0.43	6,140,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	165,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	20	20	19.75	19.75	9,800
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.15	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.08	1	1	20,015,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,150,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.04	1.2	1.04	1.2	25,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.25	6,730,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.7	0.73	0.65	0.67	18,030,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	5	5	4.75	4.8	5,130,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	22,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.6	1.74	1.58	1.62	4,069,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	9.5	9.6	9.3	9.3	253,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	45.5	45	45.5	2,082,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.095	0.0875	0.0875	29,800,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.46	1.76	1.42	1.74	15,002,000
Ionics Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.72	527,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.05	3	3.05	802,000
Keppel Holdings	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	2,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	735,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.9	2.02	1.84	1.84	15,129,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.53	0.58	0.53	0.57	365,410,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	7,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	280,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.215	0.24	0.21	0.23	8,100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.91	0.88	0.91	280,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	160,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.16	0.16	5,790,000
Vivant Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.165	0.185	1,710,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	840,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8	8.2	8	8.2	142,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.8	122,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	2,200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	300,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.84	0.94	0.84	0.93	62,200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.14	1.08	1.1	6,175,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.68	0.72	0.68	0.7	3,100,000
Manila Jockey Club	4.4	4.6	4.3	4.6	317,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	3,420,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17.25	17.25	17	17	317,800
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.6	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.8	10	9.8	10	5,196,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	320,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.89	0.83	0.85	890,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.39	0.41	56,430,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	4,440,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.59	0.55	0.59	141,240,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2	2.12	1.94	1.96	21,032,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.25	0.25	0.24	0.24	4,880,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	200,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.175	3,570,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	4,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.3	0.31	0.28	0.29	7,510,000
SM Development Corp.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.72	2,369,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.5	8.6	8.2	8.3	3,686,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	1.04	0.95	1	2,130,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc.B	0.99	1.1	0.99	1.06	840,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	286,900,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.6	8.1	7.6	7.7	1,714,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.7	9.5	8.7	9.5	53,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	4	4.1	4	4.1	38,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	17,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	24,670,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	117,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.032	0.031	0.032	208,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	441,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.16	1.2	1.14	1.16	3,315,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.44	10,022,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	45.5	45.5	44	44	3,826,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.38	0.35	0.36	830,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,200,000
Interport Res.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	386,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	128,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	400,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	57,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.125	0.13	27,310,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000

DISCLOSURES

SAN MIGUEL Corp. will amend its by-laws by including a provision for the election of independent directors and changing the schedule of its annual stockholders' meeting from every third Tuesday of April to every second Tuesday of May.

* * *

AYALA Land Inc. will have its analysts' briefing on Feb. 15, 9 a.m. at the Executive Lounge, 25/F of Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Makati City.

* * *

WISE Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from March 28 to July 25.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Company disclosed the resignation of Juan Santos as independent director following his appointment as Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry.

* * *

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 28, 8 a.m. at Studio I of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Center, Quezon City. Stockholders of record as of March 15 will be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PASCUAL Garcia III, president of **Philippine Saving Bank**, bought 5,000 common shares of the company at P31 each. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Banks' bad property loans down to 20% in Sept. '04

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DELINQUENT real estate loans of Philippine banks eased to 20.4 percent of their total property loans at end-September 2004 from the 25 percent posted the previous year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The improved performance of their real estate portfolio in turn had increased banks' appetite to allot funds to this volatile sector, the BSP said.

Banks' exposure to real estate—in terms of loans and investments—increased at end-September by 6.9 percent to P200.7 billion from the previous year.

Of the banks' total real estate exposure, about 91.7 percent or P184.1 billion consisted of direct loans, while 8.3 percent or P16.6 billion consisted of investments in commercial papers and in equities of real estate companies.

The end-September real estate loans stood 4.6 percent higher than the previous year's P176 billion. But it was 0.9 percent lower than the previous quarter's P185.8 billion.

Compared to the previous quarter, the total real estate exposure of local banks was 0.6 percent lower, while the ratio of past due real estate loans barely changed from 20.3 percent at end-June.

Of the loans extended by banks to the property sector, 96.7 percent was held by the bank proper while the trust departments kept a 3.3 percent share.

"The majority of real estate loans amounting to P151.5 billion (82.3 percent) was extended for the construction and development of real estate properties for commercial purposes including infrastructure projects, while the remaining 17.7 percent or P32.6 billion was used for the acquisition of residential units by individual homeowners/borrowers," the BSP reported.

Investments in commercial papers of real estate companies grew from the previous quarter by 2.8 percent to P16.6 billion, and by a hefty 41.9 percent from the previous year.

According to the BSP, investors are now becoming more bullish on the property sector. Property firms confirmed this when they reported improved sales output.

For instance, investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston had observed that inflows from overseas Filipino workers were starting to perk up the property sector.

In an earlier report, CSFB said part of the strong surge in overseas foreign worker remittances was being invested in housing.

"We expect these dynamics to continue in 2005, further fueling the pickup in low to middle end residential property where supply constraints are now emerging and pushing aggregate prices up," CSFB said.

In 2004, overseas buyers, a majority of whom are Filipino professionals working abroad, accounted for 20 to 25 percent of residential sales in Metro Manila.

CSFB's favorable outlook on the property sector was anchored on a benign interest rate environment.

The bank projected that the benchmark 91-day Treasury bill rate would rise by only 40 basis points this year.

Japanese firms urge government to maintain IPPs' VAT exemptions

By Abigail L. Ho

THE JAPANESE Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines Inc. (JCCIPI) has urged the government to keep the value-added tax (VAT) exemptions of independent power producers to ensure the entry of new investors into the generation sector.

In a letter to outgoing Trade Secretary and Finance Secretary-Designate Cesar Purisima, JCCIPI president Ryukichi Kawaguchi said these exemptions should be maintained, particularly for IPPs that have power purchase agreements (PPA) with the National Power Corp.

"The zero-rated VAT status of independent power producers that have power purchase agreements with Napocor must be maintained, in view of the policy consistency in the critical infrastructure development," he said.

"We believe that the government should honor its commitment in accordance with the PPA so as not to drive away future investors in the power industry," he added.

In light of the government's efforts to raise revenues, new tax measures are being put in place.

These include not only the imposition of new taxes, but also the removal of tax exemptions that certain sectors currently enjoy.

Congress has identified the power sector as one of the industries that will be stricken off the zero-VAT list.

While JCCIPI supported the government's efforts to reform the VAT system, Kawaguchi cautioned against the removal of the exemption of IPPS. Even militant scientists group Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan (Agham) said the imposition of VAT on IPPs would ultimately burden the consumers because of the pass-on nature of the tax.

"A 12-percent VAT on IPPs will increase generation rates. and in turn result in a 7-percent to 10-percent effective rate increase," Agham national chair Giovanni Tapang said in a statement yesterday.

Instead of focusing on slapping taxes on the power generation sector, he said Congress should just work on reviewing Republic Act No. 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira).

He said the law was skewed in favor of the IPPs and did not provide enough protection to consumers.

"The Epira ensures that IPPs keep their profits, and consumers pay for these VAT increases. Instead of dwelling on regressive tax measures such as VAT, Congress should pass a law repealing the Epira and building a national power industry to protect consumers and promote genuine independent economic growth," he said.

BSP expects surge . . .

From page B1

serves would improve. He added that improvements in foreign direct investments would likely follow.

In general, offshore investors shunned the Philippine market early last year over jitters on the May presidential elections and remained on the sidelines due to worries over the government's fragile fiscal position, rising inflation rate due to higher oil prices and expectations of a sovereign credit-rating downgrade.

Portfolio inflow refers to non-resident investments in peso bank deposits, government securities/money market instruments and securities listed on the PSE.

In terms of sector, the biggest beneficiaries of foreign portfolio inflows—outside of government securities and bank deposits—were enterprises engaged in manufacturing, telecommunications, financial intermediation and real estate.

Egg producers plan venture into egg processing facility

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE NATIONAL Federation of Egg Producers of the Philippines (NFEPP) is now in talks with prospective foreign investors to put up the country's first egg processing facility, that will cost around P100 million.

NFEPP chair Gregorio San Diego Jr. said the group was looking at proposals from Belgian, Dutch, French and Canadian companies for a joint venture.

The proposed facility will produce powdered egg, among others, which fast food and manufacturing firms prefer for their operations.

Processed egg, for instance, is used in the manufacturing of mayonnaise and instant noodles.

Manufacturers prefer processed egg to do away with the problem of disposing the egg shells.

"We are carefully assessing their proposals and hopefully see the plan through this year," San Diego said.

The NFEPP will also put up a cooperative that will directly manage the egg processing facility.

The NFEPP is composed of backyard and commercial egg producers such as the Bounty Farms and Robina Farms.

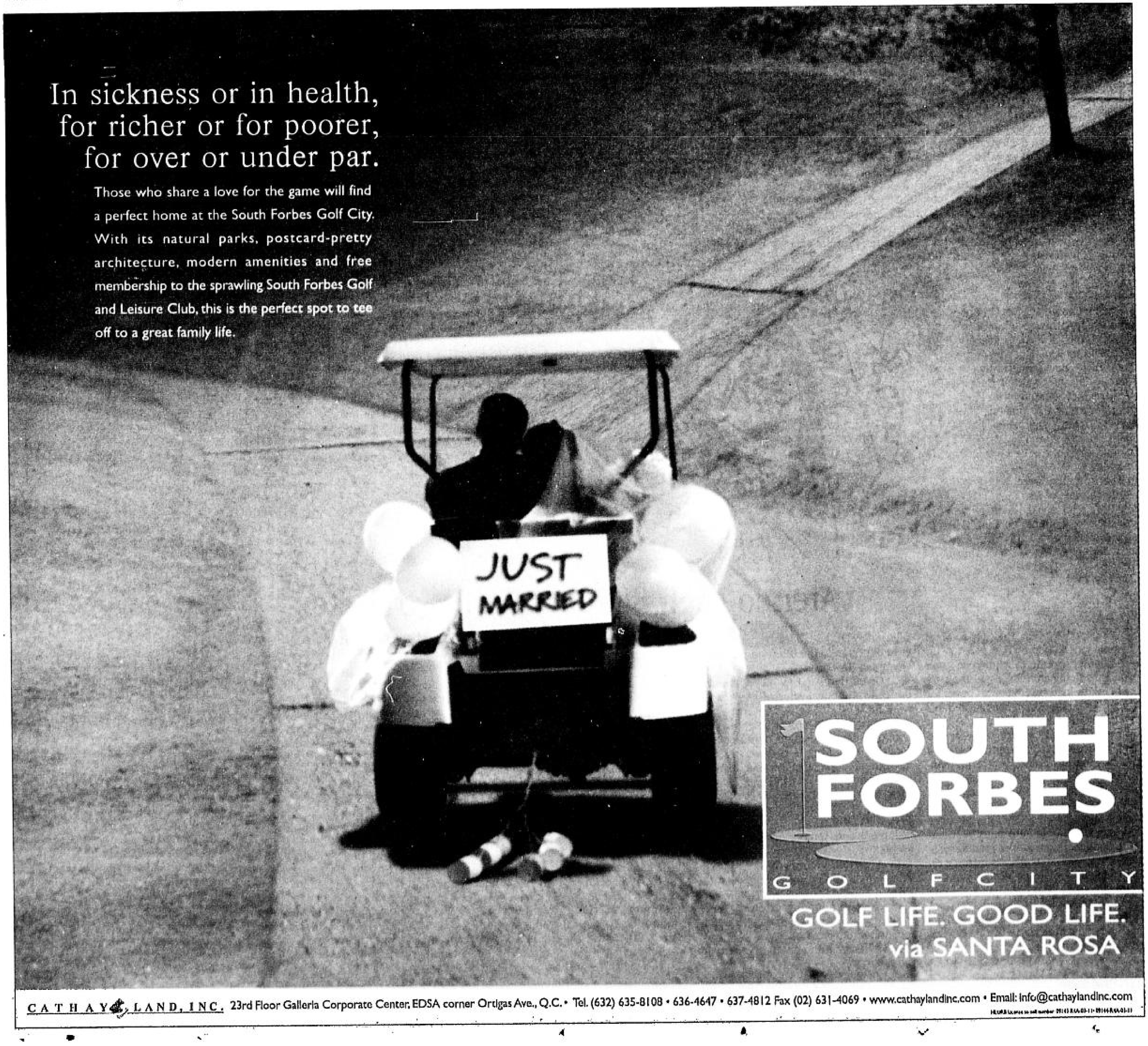
The group plans to build the facility in the Batangas Industrial Park.

Another option is the dairy facility of the state-run Livestock Development Council, as liquid egg processing requires some degree of pasteurization.

He said that local egg producers needed to shift into value-added services as local consumption of fresh eggs has been declining.

San Diego noted that Kraft Philippines and CMC, two of the biggest manufacturing firms, have stopped buying fresh eggs locally.

CONSUMPTION of fresh eggs has been on the decline.



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Lost love can really cause a broken heart

TRENTON, New Jersey—Confirming the wisdom of the poets and philosophers, doctors say the sudden death of a loved one really can cause a broken heart.

In fact, they have dubbed the condition "broken heart syndrome."

In a study published just in time for Valentine's Day—Feb. 14—doctors reported how a tragic or shocking event can stun the heart and produce classic heart attack-like symptoms, including chest pain, shortness of breath and fluid in the lungs.

Unlike a heart attack, the condition is reversible. Patients often are hospitalized but typically recover within days after little more than bedrest and fluids and suffer no permanent damage to their hearts.

In their study, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, doctors at Johns Hopkins University gave a name to the condition, demonstrated through sophisticated heart tests how it differs from a heart attack, and offered an explanation for what causes it.

Adrenaline surge

For centuries, doctors have known that emotional shocks can trigger heart attacks and sudden deaths. Broken heart syndrome, technically known as stress cardiomyopathy, is a different phenomenon.

The Johns Hopkins doctors documented how a daylong surge of adrenaline and other stress hormones could cause a decline in the heart's pumping capacity. The researchers theorized that the hormones probably cause tiny heart blood vessels to contract, but other explanations are possible.

Until now, doctors "were trying to explain it away, but the pieces never quite fit," said Dr. Hunter Champion, an assistant professor. "By our ability to recognize it, we've saved people from getting unnecessary [heart] procedures."

Champion and colleagues treated 19 emergency room patients with the syndrome between 1999 and 2003. For reasons that are not entirely clear, nearly all of them were postmenopausal women.

Many were grieving over the death of a husband, parent or child. Other triggers included a surprise party, car accident, armed robbery, fierce argument, court appearance and fear of public speaking. MRIs and other tests showed they had not suffered heart attacks.

Other doctors have since told Champion that they have seen the same thing, and researchers in Japan and Minnesota have reported similar cases.

"This is probably something that happens all the time," but most people do not seek treatment, Champion said.

Link between brain, heart

Dr. Daniel Shindler, director of the echocardiography lab at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Brunswick, New Jersey, said it apparently happened to his wife last week, when she was upset over her sister's death. The wife, who also is a doctor, sensed abnormalities in her heart. Testing showed abnormal rhythms, but she is fine now.

Shindler said the researchers' conclusions make sense, given the well-known link between the brain and heart, and offer the first explanation he has heard for the phenomenon.

Dr. Sidney Smith, former American Heart Association president and director of University of North Carolina's Center for Cardiovascular Science and Medicine, said the study would lead more ER and heart doctors to consider the syndrome when examining patients with chest pain.

"We'll definitely be paying more attention now than before" to patients who are grieving, Shindler said. *AP*

Can you tell?

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

YOU'RE having dinner with friends and you see two people sharing a meal at the next table. Based on the few glances you cast their way through dinner, do you: a) assume they're related to each other; b) assume they're a couple on a date; c) assume they're friends; d) wait until your dining companions tell you which choice is correct, and explain why.

If you answered (b) and the correct answer turns out to be either (a) or (c), then chances are you are in a long-term relationship and have been for some time. At least, that's what a study from the University of Toledo in Ohio says.

The study was conducted by Maya Aloni for her honors thesis in psychology. She is currently a graduate student at State University of New York-Buffalo. Her adviser, Frank Bernieri, is now chair of the Department of Psychology at Oregon State University. He coauthored the paper based on her research, which appeared in the Winter 2004 issue of the Journal of Nonverbal Behavior.

Love score

Approximately 150 undergraduates who were taking psychology courses at the University of Toledo took part in the study. They filled out a questionnaire that asked, among other things, whether they were in a romantic relationship at the moment, the longest relationship they have had, and how often they thought about a loved one or being in love each day.

The students were asked to rate on a scale of 1 to 10 how often they read books about relationships or fictional romances, and watched romantic movies and dating shows on TV. The numbers each student wrote down were compiled to give their "love media consumption" score.

Finally, the students were asked to fill out the Sternberg Love Scale (the 1986 version), which establishes how much passion, intimacy and commitment factor into a person's romantic relationship, and the Hatfield Passion Scale, which identifies how passionately in love a person is.

Aloni and Bernieri excluded data from students for whom English was a second language.

The students were asked to watch a video from another study composed of 25 couples, each shown for one minute, having a conversation. The couples were videotaped in Montreal and several years before the study and had filled out relationship assessment questionnaires just like the students. All the couples had been together for at least a few weeks when the video footage was collected.

Based on what they saw, the students had to determine how much they think the man in the clip loves the woman, and vice versa. They were also asked to state how confident they were of their answers.

Love is blind

Aloni and Bernieri hypothesized that people who were in relationships and who had high love media consumption scores would have accurate "love judgments" and be confident of their answers because of their experience in matters of the heart. Surprisingly, they found this was not the case.

"Love is truly blind," said Bernieri in a press statement from Oregon State University discussing the study.

"People in the study who had the longest relationships, were immersed in reading romance novels and spent lots of time watching romantic movies just loved this research. They all were quite confident of their ability to identify others in love. And without exception, they were, by far, the least accurate in their assessment."

What went wrong? The authors suggest that maybe the way students didn't recognize the behaviors exhibited by the couples as something they themselves do with their respective significant others.

They also raised the idea that the couples were discussing a neutral topic, which may not have been good for visual cues.

Aloni and Bernieri considered using a video of couples having a more heated discussion, but were worried that the students would find it harder to tell the couples were in love if they were fighting.

How to tell one's in love

So are Aloni and Bernieri right? Are couples unable to recognize other people in love?

I told a friend in a long-term relationship about this week's topic and she said the results had to be wrong because she always knows when her friends are in love.

"I can't meet you for lunch," one of them calls to say about plans made several weeks before.

"You're in love, aren't you?" my friend simply replies (she says she hears it in the voice).

"How did you know?" the astonished friend asks.

"I can tell," my friend laughs. "Call me back with details."

E-mail at massie@massie.com.

Bad teeth equal bad heart

WASHINGTON—People with more bacteria in their mouths also have more evidence of heart disease, researchers said on Monday in a study strengthening the evidence for a link between gum disease and heart disease.

The study of 657 people who had no history of stroke or heart attack showed that those with more bacteria that cause periodontal disease also had thicker carotid arteries, a strong indicator of clogged blood vessels.

Writing in the American Heart Association's journal Circulation, the team at Columbia University in New York said the association held even when other heart risk factors were taken into account.

Direct evidence

"This is the most direct evidence yet that gum disease may lead to stroke or cardiovascular disease," said Dr. Moise Desvarieux of the Columbia University Medical Center, who led the study.

"And because gum infections are preventable and treatable, taking care of your oral health could very well have a significant impact on your cardiovascular health."

Researchers believe the bacteria that cause the gum disease may spread into the bloodstream and stimulate the immune system, causing inflammation that results in the clogging of arteries. Hardening of the arteries involves the inflammation process, and other studies have strongly linked heart disease with inflammation.

The researchers used ultrasound to measure the thickness of the carotid artery, which leads from the heart to the brain.

Bacteria

They also made sure that they were measuring only levels of bacteria associated with both gum disease and heart disease. These are *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans, Porphyromonas gingivalis, Tannerella forsythia* and *Treponema denticola.*

"Although more than 600 bacteria have been shown to colonize the mouth, each person tends to carry different proportions of these microbes," said Dr. Panos Papapanou, who worked on the study.

Now they need to show which came first—the bacteria or the heart disease.

"We will reexamine the participants in less than three years, and, at that point, we can better evaluate the progression of the atherosclerosis and, hopefully, begin to establish a time frame underlying the diseases," said Dr. Ralph Sacco, who also worked on the study. *Reuters*

Ateneo High School Math Olympiad

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

NOW on its third year, the Ateneo Math Olympiad (AMO) provides a venue for our talented youth to showcase their problem-solving abilities. Last Feb. 2, after being trained by college students for a year, 17 Ateneo high school students faced grueling challenges: a three-hour individual round, where they solved three difficult high math problems, and a two-hour group round, where they answered questions under time pressure.

For the first time, they joined forces and competed against 17 students of the Mathematics Trainers Guild (MTG), who came from different parts of the country. We wanted to benchmark our Ateneo training vis-à-vis the renowned MTG, and also to foster camaraderie among Filipino gifted students.

We were not disappointed; at the end of the contest, several students from both camps were jovially shaking hands, and clapped wholeheartedly for the winners. As for the prizes, they were split evenly between both groups.

1st, 2nd year

For the individual round, freshmen and sophomores faced these questions, selected by Dr. Jose Marasigan, the trainer of our team to the International Math Olympiad (IMO):

1. Given that $w^2 + w - 3 = 0$, determine the numerical value of $w^4 + 2w^3 + w^2 + 5$.

2. For a positive integer n, let d(n) denote the sum of the digits of n. Does the equation $n + d(n) + d(d(n)) = 2005$ have any solution? Explain your answer.

3. Find all triples of integers (x, y, z) such that $xy(x + 1) = (x + 1)(y + 1)z$.

3rd, 4th year

Juniors and seniors answered these problems:

1. A certain country has an airline whose flight routes are arranged as follows:

a. Whenever there is a direct route from city A to city B, then there is no direct route from city B to city A.

b. There is a route out of every city in the country.

c. Whenever there is a direct route from city A to city C, then there is a city B such that there is a direct route from A to B and a direct route from B to C.

What is the minimum number of cities for which this arrangement is possible?

2. Find all pairs of positive integers (a, b) such that $ab + a + b$ divides $a^2 + b^2 + 1$.

3. Four consecutive even numbers are removed from the set $A = \{1, 2, \ldots n\}$. If the average of the remaining numbers is 51.5625, what is n and which four numbers are removed?

Winners in the first/second year round were (in order) Nellie Margaret Chua (Chiang Kai Shek College, Manila), Edmund Vincent Soriano (Ateneo High School), Stephanie Oliveros (Philippine Science High School, Quezon City). The third/fourth years winners were Charles William Ang (Chiang Kai Shek), Alvin Belleza (Ateneo), and Nicolo Rimando (Ateneo).

Group competition

Questions for the group competition include:

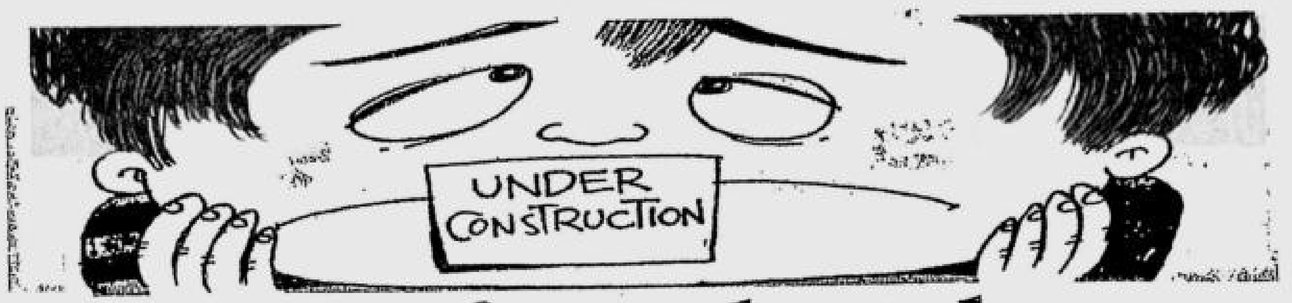
- Two runners 10 km apart race toward each other, one at 6 kph and the other at 9 kph. At the same time, a bird flew back and forth between them at 27 kph. What is the bird's total flying distance when the runners meet? (to be answered within 30 seconds)
- The probability of a certain coin landing heads is three times the probability of landing tails. What is the probability of obtaining two heads when tossing the coin three times? (1 minute)
- Bob, Fred and Vi play a game in which a card numbered 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 is stuck to each of their foreheads. Each player can see the other two players' numbers but not his or her own. If an observer tells the three players that the three numbers are not all different and that their product is a perfect square, how many of them can deduce the number on their foreheads?

Gold medal

Gold medallists here were Edmund Soriano, Emmanuel Plan VI (Ateneo). Paul Julian Hao (Chiang Kai Shek) and John Garret Go (St. Stephen's High School, Manila). Silver medallists were Augustine Tejada (Ateneo), Christian Drilon (Ateneo), Andrew Yap (Xavier School, San Juan) and Jon Henri Ma (Trinity Christian School, Bacolod). Bronze medallists were Gabriel Villareal (Ateneo), Nicolo Rimando, Stephanie Oliveros and Charles William Ang.

Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., who pioneered the creation of the AMO, laughingly urged our youth to strive for a gold medal in the IMO, before he and Dr. Marasigan retire! Fr. Nebres also hopes that the culture of problem solving will continue to spread, since the challenges facing our country require mental toughness, perseverance and determination—all of which are honed by fests such as the AMO.

Erratum: For daily brainteasers, text Puzzles to Smart at 206 or to Globe at 2346 (not 2356). My apologies.



Recovery from dental implant procedure faster

By Charles E. Buban

FOR DECADES the solutions for missing teeth were bridges and removable partial or full dentures.

Then came dental implants that looked more natural, were better fitting, and did not alter adjacent natural teeth. But the entire procedure took a long time to complete.

Dr. Steve Mark Gan of the St. Luke's Medical Center said it usually took several months after the dentist places the implants for bone to grow around them, a process known as oseointegration.

Gan said this meant that patients had to wait three to six months for implants to heal in the lower jaw and up to nine months in the upper jaw.

Gan recently introduced in the country a new type of implant and procedure where the healing period is substantially reduced.

Gan said the implant (called TiUnite) has a new surface that is uniquely porous that has been shown to stimulate bone growth along its surface, thus allowing patients to leave the clinic with esthetically and functionally working teeth.

Gan said people could now have their teeth replaced with implants in a fraction of the time it took in the past.

"Apart from avoiding going around with missing front teeth, time, money and inconvenience are all drastically reduced with immediate implants," Gan said.

High success rate

The TiUnite surface (developed by the Swedish company Nobel Biocare) was introduced in 2000 and has been proven to support the healing process and prevent loss of implant stability during healing.

Clinical studies evaluated over 800 TiUnite coated implants in about 400 patients and have shown a high implant success rate—between 96 percent and 100 percent—after six to 12 months, said Gan.

He said advanced planning using a computer-based system and Procera technology allowed the manufacture of individualized components of the teeth: crowns, bridges and abutments.

After sending the digital image of the patient's jaw to Nobel Biocare, Gan receives the components and tools for the implant procedure.

Using drilling templates and the individually designed components, Gan said he could easily and safely insert the implant in one hour and the patient gets permanent functioning teeth in just one visit.

Gan said the process minimizes pain and swelling, which combined with the short treatment time, greatly benefits both dentist and patient.

Doctors award 'healthy' restos

By Charles E. Buban

WHO would not want food that is good for the body—high in nutrition yet low in fat and cholesterol—tastes nice, and is reasonably priced?

Unfortunately, eateries, fast-food outlets and restaurants offering these kind of food are hard to find.

"Generally, menus [of most restaurants] have too much fat, salt or sugar, and are often lacking in important vitamins and minerals, and their portions are almost always larger than one would normally eat," says Philippine Heart Association president Dr. Norbert Lingling Uy.

The good news, according to the cardiologist, is that a number of restaurants are now adding healthier options in their menus.

"It is now possible to eat a fairly nutritious meal on the go," Uy says.

Uy suggests that when eating out, don't up-size the meal and use high-fat and high-calorie sauces and dressings sparingly if you can't eliminate them completely. Also, drink water for a change.

3 more restaurants

Since the Mag-Healthy Lifestyle (Mag-HL) Tayo sa Resto advocacy campaign was launched last year, the PHA has given certificates of recognition to three restaurants in Mandaluyong City.

This year, three more restaurants have been cited for complying with standards for a healthy diet menu and promoting a smoke-free environment in their establishments.

Commended were Mini Shabu Shabu, Delifresh Organic Food Restaurant and Dome Café, all located at the Shangri-La Plaza mall in Mandaluyong City.

Mini Shabu-Shabu offers customers garden fresh greens and seafoods and meat dishes prepared without the use of cooking oil.

Dome Café was cited for its selection that includes smoked salmon, *bangus* belly, and roasted veggie pasta.

Delifresh is an organic food restaurant that serves fresh veggie salads, vegetarian pasta and sandwich, farm fresh organic *lumpia*, organic chicken and other healthy selections.

"Making good choices when you are eating out will help you maintain a healthy diet. It will also help encourage your children and grandchildren to make healthy choices," says Uy.

Uy says the PHA recognizes restaurants that offer healthy diets as part of its information campaign against cardiovascular diseases.

"Apparently, poor knowledge of preventive measures against cardiovascular disease is one reason heart diseases have become prevalent," says Uy.

According to the PHA, 123 out of 100,000 Filipinos die of CVDs every year.

CVD, which includes ischemia, myocardial infarction and stroke, can be prevented through healthy lifestyle.

Hope for breast cancer patients

SIX years ago, Gloria H., now 55, felt like the whole world had crushed down on her when she learned she had breast cancer. She had everything going for her: a profitable business, a loving husband and five wonderful children. Then one day, she felt an unusual lump in her breast while she was taking a bath.

She underwent radical mastectomy, the surgical removal of the cancerous breast with dissection of the lymph nodes to detect and prevent the spread of the tumor cells. The surgery was followed by several courses of anticancer chemotherapy. Gloria was constantly worried about a possible recurrence of her cancer.

Today, Gloria could worry a little less after data from a landmark study showed a 19 percent reduction in the overall risk of breast cancer recurrence among postmenopausal women with early breast cancer who underwent five years of adjuvant letrozole therapy.

The study also showed that letrozole significantly reduced by 27 percent the risk of the cancer spreading to other parts of the body.

The data were presented during the Primary Therapy of Early Breast Cancer 9th International Conference in St. Gallen, Switzerland recently. The results were reported in the Philippines by Dr. Antonio Villalon, one of the pillars of cancer chemotherapy in the country.

Disease-free survival

The BIG 1-98 trial demonstrated a particularly strong disease-free survival advantage for patients at highest risk of breast cancer recurrence in the adjuvant (postsurgery) setting.

Disease-free survival is defined as the time from randomization (inclusion of patient in the study) to recurrence, metastasis, appearance of a second primary tumor or death from any cause.

The BIG 1-98 involved more than 8,000 postmenopausal women with early breast cancer in 27 countries, treated at a median follow up of 26 months. It is the only clinical trial designed to incorporate both a head-to-head comparison of letrozole and tamoxifen, considered the standard therapy, during the first five years following breast cancer surgery and a sequencing of both agents to determine the most effective approach to minimizing the risk of recurrence.

Letrozole, an aromatase inhibitor, is an oral once-a-day first-line treatment for postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive or hormone receptor unknown locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer. It is also approved for treating advanced breast cancer in postmenopausal women with disease progression following antiestrogen therapy, and as neoadjuvant (preoperative) therapy.

Advice to patients

According to Dr. Villalon, being diagnosed with breast cancer can lead to varying degrees of anxiety, depression and other psychological problems in many patients.

"Some try to recall what they might have done in the past that led to their breast cancer. These misconceptions about its cause only add to the anxiety," says Dr. Villalon.

Cancer specialists give the following advice to breast cancer patients:

- You should not feel guilty. You haven't done anything wrong in your life that caused breast cancer.
- You cannot "catch" breast cancer from other women who have the disease. It is not contagious.
- Breast cancer is not caused by stress, wearing tight brassieres, or by an injury to the breast.

"Breast cancer will always be bad news in any language," Dr. Villalon says. "But with modern therapies and a healthy positive disposition, patients like Gloria can still look forward to spending many more meaningful years with their families; and perhaps, take care of their children's children, too."

Secret to restful sleep

LONDON—Having trouble sleeping? Don't bother with a cup of cocoa or counting sheep—listening to music at bedtime is the way to get a restful night, Taiwanese researchers have found.

In a paper published in the February issue of the Journal of Advanced Nursing, a team from Taiwan's Tzu Chi University said they studied the sleep patterns of 60 people aged between 60 and 83 who had difficulty sleeping.

Half were given relaxing music to listen to for 45 minutes at bedtime and half were given no help to sleep.

The team found that those who listened to a selection of soft, slow music experienced physical changes that aided restful sleep.

"The difference between the music group and the control group was clinically significant," said lead author Hui-Ling Lai. *Reuters*

UST offers postgrad course

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery will hold its 33rd annual postgraduate course with the theme "Traditions and New Concepts."

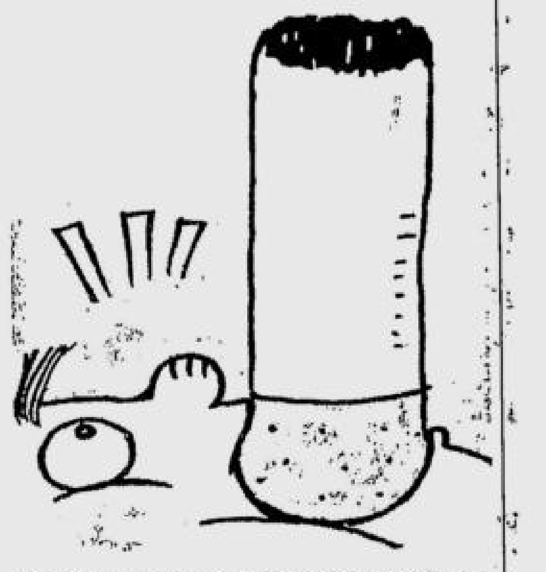
The course will be held at the CME Auditorium, St. Martin de Porres Building, UST, on July 6-8.

This year's course director is Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecology past president Rosendo R. Roque. Preregistration is until June 30. For inquiries, call Mylene at 732-9292.

Smoking No. 1 risk factor among Filipinos

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES



DESPITE all the scientific documentation on the hazards of smoking, more than half of adult Filipinos still smoke. In fact, Filipinos are smoking more compared to Americans and Singaporeans, according to a milestone survey spearheaded by the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and Philippine Lipid Society (PLS), Philippine Diabetes Association, Philippine Heart Association, Department of Health, and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology. The research drew support from 10 medical organizations.

All the efforts of the DOH and the medical community are apparently no match to the power of cigarette advertising and promotions. With the cigarette market still growing at a profitable rate, manufacturers can afford to cough out millions of pesos even as thousands of smokers cough their way to a heart attack, a stroke or lung cancer, and eventually to their grave.

Smoking is the most prevalent risk factor that accounts for the increasing incidence of deaths related to diseases of the heart and blood vessels. The prevalence of smoking and other cardiovascular risk factors, including diabetes, cholesterol problems, high blood pressure and obesity, were presented by the main authors of the National Nutrition and Health Survey (NNHeS) during the recent 10th joint annual convention of the PSH and PLS at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

Increase in male smokers

A similar survey was conducted in 1998, which showed a 53.9 prevalence of smoking among adult males. Local health experts were alarmed by this prevalence and waged a war to educate the public on the ill effects of smoking. The DOH had its Yosi-Kadiri mascot, smoking cessation clinics were established in key centers, and smoking as a preventable risk factor was highlighted in various forums of medical organizations.

When the NNHeS 2003-2004 was initiated, many thought the latest prevalence of smoking would reflect meaningful inroads achieved by the concerted antismoking campaigns. Apparently, it was just wishful thinking. The prevalence in adult male smokers even increased to 56.3 percent.

At least for adult female smokers, the figures are not too discouraging. From a prevalence of 12.6 percent in 1998, it decreased slightly to 12.1 percent.

The survey shows that 78 percent of the population is exposed to cigarette smoke at home, making them passive smokers, which increases the risk of developing cardiovascular complications similar to that of an active smoker.

The NNHeS results showed that the smoking prevalence in the country is higher than that in Singapore (24.2 percent), Japan (47.4 percent) and the US (24.1 percent).

Ban cigarette advertising

If the government is serious in helping curb the killing spree caused by smoking (which is equivalent to that caused by several hundred super typhoons annually), the least it can do is ban cigarette advertisements in all media, including billboards.

It's ludicrous when you read or watch a cigarette ad with the warning at the end that cigarette smoking is hazardous to your health. It's like allowing a wealthy convicted killer to advertise to lure potential victims to his lair.

What's sad is that cigarette ads and promotions influence the youth, even children, whose subconscious is bombarded with the message that people who smoke are cool and smoking is a symbol of machismo. There is a resource mismatch between the cigarette manufacturers and the antismoking campaigners. The playing field can be leveled by banning media advertisements of cigarettes.

Incidentally, the PSH elected a new set of officers, with Dr. Nelson Abelardo as the new president. He is the current head of the cardiovascular section at the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital. He takes over the reins from Dr. Esperanza Cabral, who led the PSH to greater heights, establishing it as a premier organization with more than a thousand of the country's heart, brain, kidney, lung, endocrine and other specialists as its active members.

What is Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)?

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) is a potentially life-altering and life-threatening breathing disorder that occurs during sleep.

The upper Airway repeatedly collapses, causing cessation of breathing (apnea) or inadequate breathing (hypopnea) and sleep fragmentation.

What causes the airway to collapse during sleep?
Several factors that can contribute to airway collapse are:
- Extra tissue in the back of the throat, such as large tonsils or uvula
- A decrease in the tone of the muscles holding the airway open
- Nasal obstruction
- Certain jaw or facial structures or attributes, such as a recessed chin

How many people have OSA?
Statistics reveal that:
- 4 in 100 middle-aged men have OSA
- 2 in 100 middle-aged women have OSA
- Most OSA sufferers remain undiagnosed and untreated

Symptoms
There are some easy-to-identify signs and symptoms associated with OSA:
- Do you snore?
- Do you choke or grasp for breath while you sleep?
- Has anyone told you that you stop breathing during sleep?
- Has your weight changed in the last 5 years?
- Have you ever nodded off or fallen asleep while driving a vehicle?
- If you answered yes to two or more of these questions, you may suffer from OSA.

Additional Symptoms include morning headaches, difficulty concentrating, depression, irritability, memory loss and sexual dysfunction.

What happens if OSA is not treated?
People who do not seek diagnosis and effective treatment for OSA can be at increased risk for:
- High Blood Pressure
- Heart Disease
- Heart Attack
- Stroke
- Fatigue-related motor vehicle and work accidents
- Decreased quality of life

What treatment are available for OSA?
The most common treatment is:
CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) pronounced see-PAP. CPAP equipment treats OSA by providing a gentle flow of positive-pressure air through a nasal mask to keep the airway open during sleep.

With CPAP Therapy:
- Breathing becomes regular and snoring stops
- Oxygen level in the blood becomes normal
- Restful sleep is restores
- Quality of life is improved
- Risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, heart attack, stroke and vehicular or work accidents is reduced.

Sleep Diagnostic Test (Polysomnograph) is now available at:

LUNG CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES, Quezon City
Sleep Laboratory, Section of Respiratory Services, tel. no. 924-6101 loc. 363.

ST. PAUL HOSPITAL, Iloilo City
Sleep Laboratory, Respiratory Care Section, tel. no. (033) 337-2741 to 49 loc. 2071

LCP and St. Paul Sleep Laboratory are using the **Respironics Alice 4 Sleep Diagnostic System** which is Exclusively Distributed by **RESPICARE ENTERPRISES.** For inquiries on Respironics Alice 4 Sleep Diagnostic System, CPAP/BiPAP Machines, call Respicare at telephone nos. 920-7646 / 920-7853.

New Internet service opens in Metro Manila

WSI, the worldwide leader in cutting-edge Internet Consulting and Education, is proud to announce the launch of a new Internet Consultant (IC) office in Metro Manila to provide local businesses with specialized Internet businesses strategies. WSI's latest office in Manila will be run by Michael Ang. Ang obtained his BS Computer Science and MBA course from De La Salle University and Entrepreneurial Leadership Course from AIM. He began his career with IBM Phils and is currently the president of EC&M Corp. Just recently, he obtained certification as a WSI Certified Internet Consultant.

WSI is considered as the number 1 Internet Services Business in the World and the 4th fastest-growing international franchise. As such, WSI recognizes that merely having a website is not enough, as new opportunities will be emerging in Internet technologies which will continue to influence the way people do business. Businesses must conform to and capitalize on this change with the help of a partner committed to positioning clients at the forefront of the digital revolution. WSI ICs provides clients with a technologically advanced, search engine-friendly website by exercising the ABCs of Internet Success (Advanced Technology, Being Found and Consultation and Education).

WSI's "Internationally Recognized Internet Consultants" assess clients' business needs and opportunities by using the patent pending Lifecycle System. Utilizing the first step is the Internet Business Analysis (IBA) process, Michael Ang will ask direct questions to identify business' competitive advantage, target markets, online/offline marketing initiatives and objectives of an Internet presence. The client's Internet Solution is then customized - using services like consultation, design, development, hosting, optimization, site registration and marketing support - to both reduce business overhead and increase profit.

Excited about the business affiliation with WSI, Michael Ang avers "My practice focuses on enabling a business to use the Internet as a medium to further its competitive advantage. Through my affiliation with WSI, I have access to any kind of advanced technology that a business would use to streamline its operations, reduce costs or generate revenues. Due to the economies of scale realized through WSI, I am thus able to bring these technologies to a business of any size at a reasonable cost."

WSI delivers thousands of e-business solutions to small and medium-sized businesses annually, having been proven effective by over 700 Internet Consultants in 87 countries worldwide. For more information, visit http://www.wsiprimewebconsultants.com.

DIAGEO
CALTEX
CONTRACT SIGNING

CALTEX, DIAGEO INK PARTNERSHIP

Caltex (Philippines) Inc and Diageo signed an agreement for the supply of Low Sulfur Fuel Oil, a new product that is a more cost-effective solution to meeting the more stringent emission standards required by the Clean Air Act. Caltex is the first oil firm in the country to offer LSFO to its commercial and industrial customers. Diageo is the first industrial company to shift from blended fuel to Caltex's Low Sulfur Fuel Oil (LSFO). The company is the world's leading premium drinks business with the most recognized collection of premium spirits, wine and beer brands such as Gilbey's Gin, Johnny Walker, J&B, Hennesy & Cuervo. Present during the Caltex, Diageo contract signing are (seated from left): Diageo Phils procurement manager Nimfa Guieb, ChevronTexaco global marketing solutions GM Kevin Kelly, Diageo supply director Alec Tempongco, Caltex C&I GM Lito Lopez; (standing from left): Caltex fingerprint business solutions consultant Christopher Perez , Caltex integrated business solutions manager Phil Wallis, Caltex C&I district manager Stephen Tiongco, and Caltex business consultant Jun Ramos.

PDI PHOTO / JOSEPH AGCAOILI

INQUIRER THANKS JG SUMMIT DURING A LUNCHEON HELD AT EDSA SHANGRI-LA

Fostering greater partnerships, Inquirer organized a special lunch with the senior management of JG Summit Holdings Inc. President and chief operating officer of JG Summit Holdings Inc, Lance Gokongwei (seated 2nd from left) is flanked by (from left) Inquirer SVP for sales and marketing, Rene Reinoso; Inquirer president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez; SVP for Robinsons Inc, Robina Gokongwei; corporate communications director of JG Summit Holdings Inc, Patricia Go-Nisce. Standing (from left): Inquirer VP for marketing, Donald Lim; marketing communication officer, Hazell Gonzales; AVP for strategic marketing communications, Celine Madamba; general manager for URC BCFG Division - Snacks Food, Benny Sanchez; Robinsons Land Corp general manager, Danny Ignacio; Inquirer VP for advertising, Pepito Olarte; Inquirer AVP for advertising, Kenny Nuyda and Inquirer SVP for corporate services, David Valdes. Also present during the lunch was the chief executive officer of Digitel Mobile, Charles A. Lim (not in photo).

Ajinomoto Group constructs new plant in Brazil

THE AJINOMOTO Group, which holds a 60 percent share of the global market for amino acids for pharmaceuticals and foods, is constructing a new plant in Brazil in order to meet the growing worldwide demand for these products. The Ajinomoto Group already has eight production bases for pharmaceutical and food-use amino acids around the world and the new plant will be the ninth.

Ajinomoto Interamericana Indústria e Comércio Ltda, headed by president Yoshihiko Sakai, is currently constructing the production facilities with a total investment of BRL 188 million or approximately JPY 6.6 billion in Limeira, Brazil. The plant will initially produce four products, namely, Glutamine plus Valine, Leucine and Isoleucine, which are all Branched Chain Amino Acids (BCAAs). The company will begin full-scale production and sales of glutamine in the second half of 2005 and the three BCAAs one year later. At present, the total planned production capacity is 4,000 metric tons (MT). In addition to domestic sales in Brazil, the company will export widely to North America, Europe, Asia, Japan and other regions.

The Ajinomoto Group is aiming to further develop its global business as the leading amino acids company. The Group will continue working to contribute to better health and quality of life of people worldwide by providing high-quality amino acids, related products and services.

Glutamine and BCAAs were chosen as items for production at the new plant because worldwide demand for them has increased sharply in recent years for pharmaceutical and food applications. In addition to their conventional use as raw materials for infusions and medical foods, pharmaceutical - and food-use amino acids have found an increasing number of applications in strengthening immune functions, alleviating symptoms of nervous disorders, and in drug discovery research. The market for amino acids for beverages, health foods and supplements has also expanded in the last several years, and global demand has grown to about 17,000 tons. Glutamine and BCAAs have been highly evaluated as amino acids with particularly important activity in these growth markets, and various product development efforts are under way.

The right treatment for dyspepsia

"PARANG tambol ang tiyan. Kabag. Masakit ang sikmura." If you frequently experience these symptoms, you may have a common stomach condition known as dyspepsia.

Some confuse dyspepsia with more recognizable stomach ailments like hyperacidity. Others dismiss these symptoms as simple indigestion without taking any medication.

What is dyspepsia? Dyspepsia is recurring discomfort in the chest and stomach region. Aside from bloating, gas and stomach pain, other symptoms include heavy stomach, fullness, nausea and heartburn. While these symptoms can occur at any time of the day, dyspepsia is usually triggered by meals and by stress. In fact, dyspepsia does not always follow large meals, it can follow meals of any size.

Dyspepsia is usually caused when stomach movements slow and food does not properly empty from the stomach. As food stays in the stomach longer than it normally should, it can lead to symptoms like bloating, gas, and general discomfort.

Treatment: Frequent remedies taken for dyspepsia-like symptoms are drinks like tea, soft drinks or antacids. These remedies do not always restore stomach movement and relieve some, but not all of the symptoms of dyspepsia. If you have already taken these remedies, but have found them ineffective at treating symptoms like bloating, gas and stomach pain, you may have dyspepsia.

Another class of medication, called prokinetics, more directly addresses the full range of dyspeptic symptoms by restoring proper movement of the stomach. The most widely used prokinetic in the Philippines is Domperidone (known by the brand name Motilium), which is available in 10mg tablet form.

See your doctor: However, if your symptoms persist, it is best to see your doctor. A Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) doctor will recommend the right treatment for dyspepsia and will help you manage your lifestyle so you can live free of the symptoms of dyspepsia.

BPI salutes the
EXPAT
PI

MULTI-BILLIONAIRE HEIRESS OPENS BPI DOLLAR ACCOUNT

Multi-billionaire heiress Loida Nicholas-Lewis, who is also national chair of the National Federation of Fil-Am Associations (NaFFAA) manifested her firm commitment to rally fellow Filipinos abroad to help the country by opening a US dollar savings account with the Bank of the Philippine Islands, immediately the day following her speech at a dinner reception during during the 3rd Global Filipino Networking Convention in Cebu City. Joined by various Fil-Am regional chairs of NaFFAA, Lewis opened the account in the presence of (from left) BPI's lead marketing officer for the Expat Pinoy Segment, Bolet Arevalo, segment manager Patrick Bisera, and VP Raul Dimayuga, head of BPI Expat Pinoy Segment.

shopToshiba@Complink opens at SM North Edsa

THE NEXT time you stroll down SM North Edsa's Cyberzone for a check on the latest electronic gizmos, you'd definitely bump into shopToshiba@ Complink. The eye-catching Toshiba shop inside Complink store is a small showroom and store of the latest and the widest selection of Toshiba products, such as laptops, notebooks, and pocket PCs. ShopToshiba is among the network of concept corners and stores being put up by the market leader in notebooks and laptops. Toshiba plans to establish around 200 concept stores in the South and Southeast Asia region. In the country, Toshiba plans to put up 10 to 15 Toshiba concept stores. Lim Kim Meng, manager-distributor business of Toshiba computer systems division in the Philippines and Vietnam, said the opening of ShopToshiba signals the company's venture into serious retail marketing. "This is in line with Toshiba's retail channel strategy to bring Toshiba closer to our customers," he said. Michael Wong, general manager of Complink Marketing Inc said the company is "delighted" to work with Toshiba with this project. "Toshiba brand is already top-of-mind in the notebook market with exciting innovative products. Toshiba holds the world's leader position, which we can use to substantially boost sales, increase traffic and customer confidence."

2nd Annual Celebrate Life

ASIAN HOSPITAL AND BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT SURVIVORS CELEBRATE LIFE

It was a gathering of survivors, an afternoon of thanks and a time to celebrate life. On a terrace of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Alabang, Muntinlupa City, six bone marrow transplant (BMT) recipients recently came together with family members and friends in the 2nd Annual 'Celebrate Life' Reunion to thank the dedicated team of doctors, medical and administrative personnel of the Asian Hospital Center for Bone Marrow Transplantation who have been instrumental in their survival. Throughout the day, it was a common sight to see people greet each other with the warmth usually reserved for family members. Joyce Sarmiento, a young girl who is a ready candidate for BMT needs financial assistance to pay for the cost of medicines she will require for her procedure. Although actually more affordable than other hospitals offering BMT, the costs incurred in a BMT at Asian Hospital are still quite substantial for most people. Depending on the particular needs of the patient and the number of people who get screened before a suitable donor can be found, a BMT can run anywhere from P800,000 to P2,400,000. If you would like to help Joyce, you may contact Dr. Francisco Lopez at Asian Hospital and Medical Center 771-9213.

Filipino cuisine the way your mother used to make

IF YOU'RE looking for Filipino cuisine that is traditionally prepared and internationally applauded, look for the restaurant that has extensive experience in Filipino food preparation. Josephine Restaurant has been in the business for 37 years and has adhered strictly to the standard of cooking that has been handed from generation to generation. There are absolutely no shortcuts when it comes to their food preparation and all their ingredients are meticulously replenished with fresh stock. May it be breakfast, lunch or dinner, Josephine Restaurant will sure to delight the most discerning of palates. And at Josephine Restaurant Tagaytay, weekend buffet for breakfast and lunch is made more affordable at P220 and P295 respectively. Aside from boasting of the best in Filipino cuisine, Josephine Restaurant's impeccable service, pristine environments, beautiful architecture and warm, friendly staff has earned it the Kalakbay Award for its efforts in promoting tourism in the country. When it comes to tasting and experiencing the best of what the Islands have to offer, Josephine Restaurant would arguably be at the top of the list. Their tel. nos. are: Tagaytay at (46)413-1801/413-1802; Josephine Restaurant Kawit at (46)436-0161/434-3076

The Philippines own greatest generation: The heroes tell their story

AMBASSADOR Isabel Caro Wilson gave a speech at the National Historical Institute last Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. entitled "The Philippines own greatest generation: The heroes tell their story". Ambassador Wilson's speech goes:

I honestly do not know why I am a speaker this morning. I am neither an historian or a hero. I am, however, a survivor.

Through the intervention of a Japanese officer in one instance and the kindness of a Japanese soldier on another occasion I was spared the pain and the horrors inflicted on so many others. Both men realized how young I was and somehow I touched their humanity.

Dr. Benito Legarda, who is responsible for my being here, is a trustee, like me, of MEMORARE, a private non-profit organization founded by civilian survivors of the Battle of Manila in Feb. 1945 and by descendants of non-combatant victims of that battle.

100,000 innocent men, women and children perished in the inferno into which Manila was turned by the Japanese decision to make the city a battleground instead of declaring it an open city as General MacArthur had done in 1941.

The vast majority of those who perished were Filipinos, but there were also nationals from neutral or friendly countries, as well as citizens from countries supposedly allies of Japan and the Swiss, whose non-belligerent status was ignored by the brutal Japanese soldiers.

As for the once "Pearl of The Orient", William Manchester wrote in his "American Caesar" that "The destruction of Manila was one of the greatest tragedies of World War II. Of allied capitals in those war years, only Warsaw suffered more. Seventy percent of the utilities, 75 percent of the factories, 80 percent of the southern residential district, and 100 percent of the business district were razed".

"MEMORARE" aims to honor the victims by keeping alive their memory, by collecting eye-witness accounts and depositing them in archives, by encouraging the publication of books and articles regarding this aspect of the liberation of Manila, by stimulating the formation of similar societies elsewhere in the country, and by putting up appropriate memorials whenever and wherever possible.

It has already erected a monument in historic Intramuros to the non-combatant victims of Manila, which has become a focal point for memorial tributes and visits.

"TERROR IN MANILA - FEB. 1945", which will be launched early in March, is the first major publication undertaken by MEMORARE.

It is essential that we remember World War II and keep fresh in our minds the atrocities that happened to us in another time, which, unfortunately, are not adequately covered in our history books. Our young people have no knowledge or recollection of that point in time when heroes died to safeguard democracy. Such events enter our consciousness only when we commemorate anniversaries such as the 60 years of the liberation of Manila which we are now reliving.

The massacre in Manila has not registered with the generation of Filipinos who were not yet born when the killings happened.

At a memorial dinner at Auchwitz, Moshe Cantor, chairman of the European Jewish Congress talked of the need to pass on personal recollections of the Holocaust, not just statistics or historical accounts. Our own recollections are necessary to remind us of the brutal Japanese occupation.

Let me give a brief background on why a fellow Asian, like the Japanese, invaded our country. And why we did not side with them.

The Philippines had been a colony of the Americans since 1898, after the Spaniards had left. History books tell us that one of the reasons why the Americans acquired the Philippines was the belief that the colony would be of strategic importance to the United States. Many of you may be familiar with Philippine historian Teodoro A. Agoncillo. He wrote in his book the "History of the Filipino People" that it was then thought that with the Philippines under the United States, no foreign power would dare antagonize the Americans.

The Americans introduced us to the democratic way of life. Universal education was given priority; public health and welfare were carried to far-flung barrios; commerce, industry and trade progressed; basic individual freedoms were respected; communication and transportation were greatly improved; and political consciousness was developed through the introduction of American political institutions and practices. Moreover, we were given a ten-year probationary period, known as the Commonwealth regime, which was rudely interrupted, according to Agoncillo, when the Japanese looking for territories to accommodate not only their excess population but also their manufactured goods, started the war in the Pacific. Militarism was an honored policy.

When Japanese naval bombers attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in December 1941, the United States declared war against Japan and the war in the Pacific began.

However, since the four decades of American regime was an era of new-found democratic way of life for the Filipinos, the Japanese invaders landed on Philippine shores to find Filipinos hostile to them and loyal to the Americans. Many reasons have been given for this attitude.

When the Japanese took over the Philippine government, they immediately introduced to Filipinos their official policy of "Asia for the Asians". This was their official slogan which was aimed at establishing the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, which in turn was actually the Japanese slogan for military expansionism. The slogan "Asia for the Asians" was intended to appeal and attract Asians to support each other against western colonizers, the United States, in particular. However, such a slogan and appeal did not result in support for the Japanese cause.

The Japanese had hoped that inspite of the affinity of the Filipinos for the Americans, their various strategies to win our goodwill would ease their occupation of our land and we would learn to accept them as occupiers. During the three years of Japanese occupation, Filipinos never surrendered their sovereign right to be masters in their own country.

Compared to the American colonizers who gave the Filipinos a taste of democratic life, the Japanese immediately suppressed civil liberties. Economic activities were geared to the needs and demands of the Japanese war effort, education was revamped to re-orient Filipino thinking along Japanese lines, and political life was limited to the Japanese-sponsored Republic. To further alienate the Filipinos against the Japanese, thousands (both rich and poor suspected of siding with the Americans) were imprisoned, brutally tortured and executed. It was therefore not surprising that many went underground and guerilla movements sprouted. The story of the guerilla movement is a story of thousands of unknown heroes that could fill hundreds of volumes. Guerilla groups were organized such as the Hunter's ROTC guerillas, Marking's guerillas, President Quezon's own guerillas or PQOG, the Panay guerillas and more. Their stories of heroism and bravery must be told to our youth. These guerillas kept alive the spirit of the resistance movement against the enemy, at a time when all seemed lost. Knowledge of this past is so important for our young people.

I particularly remember one habit of Japanese soldiers which turned Filipinos against them. This was their practice of slapping anyone who did not immediately obey their commands. To we Filipinos, slapping is an insult but among the Japanese it was a common practice. No one, during the darkest days of the occupation, could sleep soundly. At anytime, a father, brother, uncle or other relative could be arrested and tortured. Anyone walking in the street had no certainty that they would arrive safely home. Japanese sentries, strategically placed at most street corners, slapped men, women and even children for failing to bow to them. A Filipino was slapped for not bringing his identification card. He was slapped for not being understood by a sentry. He was slapped for having a face the Japanese did not like. By not attempting to understand Filipino psychology, the Japanese failed to win the confidence and sympathy of the Filipinos. Unreasonable rules, prohibitions and humiliations were inflicted on our people daily.

In early 1945 when it was rumored that the Americans were on their way to liberate the Philippines, Filipinos thought that their sufferings would finally end. It was not to be.

As the Japanese realized they were losing the war, The Imperial Japanese Naval Defense Force in Manila under the command of Rear Admiral Sanji Iwabuchi went on a killing rampage. General MacArthur had declared Manila an open city before he left in 1941 so as not to destroy the city. Before the Japanese left, they made sure that Manila was fully destroyed. In the process, 100,000 innocent men, women and children were massacred during the battle of liberation from Feb. 3 to March 3, 1945.

Today wars continue and innocent people are caught in the cross fire. I believe the term used is "collateral damage". I leave you with the hope that some day soon men will learn to respect each others differences and say Peace be with you.

ProductFILES

Ovaltine Power in Chamba Juice drink

OREO-OVALTINE Treat is just one of the myriad of drinks mixed by Chamba Juice, a new beverage store located at The Fort that is sure to be a hit among juice lovers and health-conscious individuals. When asked why Chamba Juice preferred to use Ovaltine Power over other chocolate drinks, Patrick Tantoco, the proud owner of Chamba Juice revealed that unlike the other brands, Ovaltine Power is a nutritious and filling drink fortified with essential vitamins and minerals. It's a healthy add-on to Chamba Juice's already nourishing drinks. "it also has a smooth chocolate taste," he said, which makes Ovaltine a perfect ingredient in all of his chocolate-flavored concoctions. "I have tried other chocolate brands but Ovaltine Power has the best taste for my shakes", he added.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

February 8, 2005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 16-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted by this Port on February 22, 2005, 2:30 PM, to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on February 21, 2005. In the event of a failed bidding, the second auction shall be conducted on the first business day following the first bidding.

Lot No. 126-04 Floor Price: Php 111,750.00	VARIOUS CONSIGNEES A.P. No. 04-127 1st Advertisement "As Is Where Is"	2 drums Red Palm - Procter & Gamble 5 plts Sample Cement - Central Cement Corp 1 plt. Posters - Bradwood Co. 1 plt. Mustard - Getz Bros 2 drums Flavoring - MPM Noodles Corp 4 ctns. Calendar 97 - Buche NR 3 ctns. Brochures - Sharp Phils 4 ctns. Comics - Unitour Ent. 1 skid Cores - Phildiamant In 200 ctns. Tipical Ailment - Finla Inc 2 ctns. Brochures - Damagus Trading 1 plt. Brochures - Ebor Ind. Co. 1 plt. Healthcare Guide - Sanofi Winthrop 2 ctns. Brochures - Philips Electrical 1 skid Cut & Letter - BR Hubbard 1 plt. Round Steel (50 kgs. approx.) - Aroya Feedmill 3 plts. Old Pants - American Exchange 4 plts. Foodstuff - Mighty Sun Marketing 9 plts. Footwear - Invec Phils 1 crate Promo Materials - Health Marketing Tech 1 bdl. Forms - Maersk Phils 2 plts. Promo Materials - Health Marketing Tech 6 bags Wiredrawing - HWA Chong Temple 7 rolls, 175 kgs. Plastic Film - National Starch 6 rolls, 120 kgs. Old Fabrics - Stayfast Phils 50 ctns. Foodstuff - Suntan Industries 1 ctn. Old Books - Busy Books 1 bag Old Clothing - Francia Cultivo 3 ctns. Promo Materials - Etienne Aigner Shop 60 ctns. Used Personal Effects - Gregorio Honasan 2 plts. Golf Magazine - Sta. Elena Golf Club 1 pkg. Plastic Roll - Levi Strauss 2 ctns. Brochures - Daeduck Phils. 2 ctns. Old Books - Touch Outreach Phils. 1 case Glass - Roleka Enterprises 4 ctns. Hotel Directory - The Pan Pacific 4 ctns. (50 pcs.) Sewing Threads - Shoji Inc 3 plts., 10 ctns./plt., 50 pcs./ctn. Rotary Fan - American Power 2 bags Expired Chemical - Sanitoc 7 ctns., 5 bags./ctn., 5 kgs./bag Detergent Powders - Bolch 1 plt. (600 pcs.) Oil Filters - Isuzu Phils. 1 plt. Roof Panel Sheet - Maersk Phils. 1 plt. Peroxide Liquid - Pangasinan Elec. Corp 1 plt. 13 ctns./plt., 16 kgs. approx./ctn. Container Seal - Maersk Phils./APM Stock 1 case Personal Effects - GSI Lumonica 4 ctns. Brochures - Rural Merchandise 7 ctns. Personal Effects - Good Deal Center 1 case Documents - Otis Elevators 1 case Personal Effects - Roberto Villores 1 plt. Expired Chemical - First Sumiden 4 ctns. Personal Effects - Michael Rubia 1 plt. Catalogues - Gran Industria Inc 1 case Diaries - Powertech Industrial 7 pcs. Locks - Pacific Rim 1 skid Toiletries - Marsman Distribution 1 ctn. Printed Books - Lifetime Mktg. Corp 1 plt. Brochures - Printchem Printing Chem 1 plt. Cosmetic Products - HML Int'l Inc 1 plt. Hazardous Varnish - JC Domingo Corp. 1 case Brochures - World Cargo 2 cases Personal Effects - Rebecca Polsitco 1 plt. Sealing Compound - United Container Corp 4 bdls. Scrap Papers - Paperpa Arts & Crafts 2 drums Chemical Samples - Sytangco Enterprises 4 plts. Foodstuff - Chris Marie Enterprises 1 ctn. Personal Effects - Alex S. Sampaguita 2 pkgs. Personal Effects - 3R Ace Cargo 25 ctns. Reels Plastic - Gateway Electronics 1 case Ceramic Chips - German Machineries 1 roll Old Fabric Fume Garments 1 case Spare Parts - Sybros Enterprises 1 crate Plating Machine - Technico Electroplating 1 roll (70 kgs.) Plastic Roll - Nichemm Phils. Corp 7 pcs. Plastic Roll - Lamco Distribution 1 drum Expired Chemical Crayons Processing Inc 1 plt. 15 ctns. 72 pcs./ctn. Synthetic Oil - Tupa Phils. Inc 1 pkg. Refrigeration Parts - Danfoss Inc 3 bales Mattress - Steven Tan 1 case Valve Parts - Aloyco Trading Corp 24 ctns. Brochures - Dyna Image Corp 1 case, 1 tool box & 15 pcs. Handtools - Boyen Taponera 5 ctns., 125 pcs. T-Shirt for Kids - Creative Image 26 bags. 25 kgs./bag Resin - US Trdg. Phils., Inc 1 bdl. Batteries - Trends & Technologies 1 ctn. Old Books - Milagros Emperado 1 ctn. Brake Parts - Nissin Brake Phils. 4 ctns. Cement - New Idea Co., Ltd 1 plt. Various Spare Parts - QSR Corp 2 cases Filter - Transmodal Ind'l Inc 3 skids Old Toys - St. Anabelle Ayson 1 ctn. Brochures - Intermarine Express 4 pkgs. Ship Spare Parts - Lina M. Guco 10 pkgs. Sports Goods - M.O.F. Co., Inc 10 bags Tapioca Starch Furgerra Mktg. Co. 6 ctns. Brochures - Aventis Pharma 8 bales Polyester Fabrics - Dae Kyung Garments 1 drum Expired Chemical - Pheps Semiconductor Phils. 5 bdls. TV Tables - Home Fashion 6 bags Unsaturated Resin - Wi-an Chem. Corp 1 case Personal effect - Vidar Kristiansen 1 ctn. Tools - Famous Pacific Phils 3 ctns. Sample Compressor - Florence B. Sison Location: Transocean Warehouse
Lot No. 127-04 Floor Price: Php 450,000.00	DORA WASHIKO R.A. 7651 1st Advertisement "As is Where is"	1 unit used Cherokee Jeep, black, ltd. a/t with damage needs general repair VIN 1J4FJ78L8KL518125 Location: Customs Parking Compound (MICP)

Basic Guidelines:

1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated)
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)
3. PhP20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable).
4. The highest bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or Manager's Check immediately and the balance of 50% shall be paid within the next business day
5. After the second failed bidding, a particular lot may be offered to all qualified bidders for negotiated sale, subject to compliance of the requirements under Section IV-J of CMO 5-2003
6. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   - a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines - BOC MICP E.O.
   - b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs.
   - c. For the account of

Bidder

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pre, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77

(Sgd.) Atty. FELIPE A. BARTOLOME, CESO V
District Collector of Customs

(PDI - February 12, 2005)

BITS Clips

RCBC Driven promo

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Dinalupihan Branch	Hermosa (Head Office)-A. Nuguid, Hermosa, Bataan	February 11, to March 3 2005
Makati City Branch	Phil. Deposit Insurance Corp. Ayala Office, 6th Floor, SSS Bldg., Ayala Avenue cor V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	February 11 to March 3 2005
Abucay Branch	Abucay Branch -Bayo, Abucay, Bataan	February 11 to 25, 2005
Bagac Branch	Bagac Branch-Bagac, Bataan	February 11 to 22 2005
Balanga Branch	Balanga Branch-M. Banzon Ave corner Yakal St., Balanga, Bataan	February 11 to 25 2005
Pilar Branches	Balanga Branch-M. Banzon Ave corner Yakal St., Balanga Bataan	February to 25 2005
Limay Branch	Limay Branch - Limay, Bataan	February 11 to 22, 2005
Lubao Branch	Lubao Branch -Lubao, Pampanga	February 11 to 22, 2005
Mariveles Branch	Mariveles Branch - Burgos corner San Nicolas Streets, Balanga Bataan	February 11 to March 3 2005
Morong Branch	Morong Branch-A. Luna corner Sulangi Streets, Morong Bataan	Fe [illegible] to March 3, 2005
Orion Branch	Orion Branch-Orion, Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Orani Branch	Orani Branch-Kaparangan St., Orani Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Samal Branch	Orani Branch-Kaparangan Street, Orani, Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005

After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. or by mail to:

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims
   - a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit or Bank Statement including Unused Checks
   - b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their [illegible] claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the prescriptive [illegible] (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Hermosa Savings & Loan Bank, Inc. is February 2, 2007. After February 2, 2007, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - February 11 & 12, 2005)

The Philippines own greatest generation: The heroes tell their story

AMBASSADOR Isabel Caro Wilson gave a speech at the National Historical Institute last Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. entitled "The Philippines own greatest generation: The heroes tell their story". Ambassador Wilson's speech goes:

I honestly do not know why I am a speaker this morning. I am neither an historian or a hero. I am, however, a survivor.

Through the intervention of a Japanese officer in one instance and the kindness of a Japanese soldier on another occasion I was spared the pain and the horrors inflicted on so many others. Both men realized how young I was and somehow I touched their humanity.

Dr. Benito Legarda, who is responsible for my being here, is a trustee, like me, of MEMORARE, a private non-profit organization founded by civilian survivors of the Battle of Manila in Feb. 1945 and by descendants of non-combatant victims of that battle.

100,000 innocent men, women and children perished in the inferno into which Manila was turned by the Japanese decision to make the city a battleground instead of declaring it an open city as General MacArthur had done in 1941.

The vast majority of those who perished were Filipinos, but there were also nationals from neutral or friendly countries, as well as citizens from countries supposedly allies of Japan and the Swiss, whose non-belligerent status was ignored by the brutal Japanese soldiers.

As for the once "Pearl of The Orient", William Manchester wrote in his "American Caesar" that "The destruction of Manila was one of the greatest tragedies of World War II. Of allied capitals in those war years, only Warsaw suffered more. Seventy percent of the utilities, 75 percent of the factories, 80 percent of the southern residential district, and 100 percent of the business district were razed".

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When Japanese naval bombers attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii in December 1941, the United States declared war against Japan and the war in the Pacific began.

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Dinalupihan Branch	Hermosa (Head Office)-A Nuguid. Hermosa Bataan	February 11, to March 3 2005
Makati City Branch	Phil. Deposit Insurance Corp. Ayala Office, 6th Floor, SSS Bldg , Ayala Avenue cor V.A. Rufino St , Makati City	February 11 to March 3. 2005
Abucay Branch	Abucay Branch -Bayo, Abucay, Bataan	February 11 to 25, 2005
Bagac Branch	Bagac Branch-Bagac, Bataan	February 11 to 22 2005
Balanga Branch	Balanga Branch-M Banzon Ave corner Yakal St , Balanga, Bataan	February 11 to 25, 2005
Pilar Branches	Balanga Branch-M Banzon Ave corner Yakal St , Balanga Bataan	February 11 to 25 2005
Limay Branch	Limay Branch - Limay, Bataan	February 11 to 22, 2005
Lubao Branch	Lubao Branch -Lubao, Pampanga	February 11 to 22, 2005
Mariveles Branch	Mariveles Branch - Burgos corner San Nicolas Streets, Balanga Bataan	February 11 to March 3. 2005
Morong Branch	Morong Branch-A Luna corner Sulangi Streets, Morong Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Orion Branch	Orion Branch-Orion, Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Orani Branch	Orani Branch-Kaparangan St., Orani Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005
Samal Branch	Orani Branch-Kaparangan Street, Orani, Bataan	February 11 to March 3, 2005

After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS BLDG, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8 00 A.M. to 5:00 P M or by mail to:

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims
   - a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, or Bank Statement including Unused Checks
   - b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's signature

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed
4. Pursuant to the provision of R A 3591, as amended by R A 9302, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Hermosa Savings & Loan Bank, Inc is February 2, 2007 After February 2, 2007, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI-February 11 & 12, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

February 8, 2005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted by this Port on February 22, 2005, 2:30 PM, to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on February 21, 2005. In the event of a failed bidding, the second auction shall be conducted on the first business day following the first bidding

Lot No. 126-04	VARIOUS CONSIGNEES A.P. No. 04-127 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is'	2 drums Red Palm - Procter & Gamble 5 plts Sample Cement - Central Cement Corp 1 plt. Posters - Braidwood Co. 1 plt. Mustard - Getz Bros 2 drums Flavoring - MPM Noodles Corp. 4 ctns. Calendar 97 - Buche NR 3 ctns. Brochures - Sharp Phils. 4 ctns. Comics - Unifour Ent. 1 skid Cores - Phildamant In. 200 ctns. Tipical Aliment - Finla Inc 2 ctns. Brochures - Damagus Trading 1 plt. Brochures - Elixir Ind. Co. 1 plt. Healthcare Guide - Sanofi Winthrop 2 ctns. Brochures - Philips Electrical 1 skid Cut & Lette - BR Hubbard 1 plt. Round Steel (50 kgs. approx.) - Areya Feedmill 3 plts. Old Parts - American Exchange 4 plts. Foodstuff - Mighty Sun Marketing 9 plts. Footwear - Invec Phils. 1 crate Promo Materials - Health Marketing Tech 1 bdl. Forms - Maersk Phils. 2 plts. Promo Materials - Health Marketing Tech 6 bags Wiredrawing - HWA Chong Temple 7 rolls, 175 kgs. Plastic Film - National Starch 6 rolls, 120 kgs. Old Fabrics - Stayfast Phils. 50 ctns. Foodstuff - Suntan Industries 1 ctn. Old Books - Busy Books 1 bag Old Clothing - Franca Cultivo 3 ctns. Promo Materials - Etienne Aigner Shop 60 ctns. Used Personal Effects - Gregorio Honasan 2 plts. Golf Magazine - Sta. Elena Golf Club 1 pkg. Plastic Roll - Levi Strauss 2 ctns. Brochures - Daeduck Phils. 2 ctns. Old Books - Touch Outreach Phils. 1 case Glass - Roleka Enterprises 4 ctns. Hotel Directory - The Pan Pacific 4 ctns. (50 pcs.) Sewing Threads - Shoji Inc 3 plts., 10 ctns./plt., 50 pcs./ctn. Rotary Fan - American Power 2 bags Expired Chemical - SantiOC 7 ctns., 5 bags/ctn., 5 kgs./bag Detergent Powders - Botch 1 plt. (600 pcs.) Oil Filters - Isuzu Phils. 1 plt. Roof Panel Sheet - Maersk Phils. 1 plt. Peroxide Liquid - Pangasinan Elec. Corp 1 plt. 13 ctns./plt., 16 kgs. approx./ctn. Container Seal - Maersk Phils./APM Stock 1 case Personal Effects - GSI Lumonica 4 ctns. Brochures - Rural Merchandise 7 ctns. Personal Effects - Good Deal Center 1 case Documents - Otis Elevators 1 case Personal Effects - Roberto Villones 1 plt. Expired Chemical - First Sumiden 4 ctns. Personal Effects - Michael Rubia 1 plt. Catalogues - Gran Industrial Inc. 1 case Diaries - Powertech Industrial 7 pcs. Locks - Pacific Rim 1 skid Toiletries - Marsman Distribution 1 ctn. Printed Books - Lifetime Mktg. Corp 1 plt. Brochures - Printchem Printing Chem. 1 plt. Cosmetic Products - HML Int'l Inc 1 plt. Hazardous Varnish - JC Domingo Corp. 1 case Brochures - World Cargo 2 cases Personal Effects - Rebecca Polsico 1 plt. Sealing Compound - United Container Corp 4 bdls. Scrap Papers - Paperpo Arts & Crafts 2 drums Chemical Samples - Syangco Enterprises 4 plts. Foodstuff - Chris Mave Enterprises 1 ctn. Personal Effects - Alex S. Sampaguita 2 pkgs. Personal Effects - 3R Ace Cargo 25 ctns. Reels Plastic - Gateway Electronics 1 case Ceramic Chips - German Machineries 1 roll Old Fabric - Forme Garments 1 case Spare Parts - Sybros Enterprises 1 crate Plating Machine - Technico Electroplating 1 roll (70 kgs.) Plastic Roll - Nichemm Phils. Corp 7 pcs. Plastic Roll - Lamco Distribution 1 drum Expired Chemical - Crayons Processing Inc 1 plt. 15 ctns. 72 pcs./ctn. Synthetic Oil - Tupa Phils. Inc 1 pkg. Refrigeration Parts - Danfoss Inc. 3 bales Mattress - Steven Tan 1 case Valve Parts - Aloyco Trading Corp 24 ctns. Brochures - Dyna Image Corp 1 case, 1 tool box & 15 pcs. Handtools - Boyen Tajonera 5 ctns., 125 pcs. T-Shirt for Kids - Creative Image 26 bags, 25 kgs./bag Resin - US Trdg. Phils., Inc 1 bdl. Batteries - Trends & Technologies 1 ctn. Old Books - Milagros Emperado 1 ctn. Brake Parts - Nissin Brake Phils. 4 ctns. Cement - New Idea Co., Ltd 1 plt. Various Spare Parts - OSR Corp. 2 cases Filter - Transmodal Ind'l Inc 3 skids Old Toys - Sr. Anabelle Ayson 1 ctn. Brochures - Intermanne Express 4 pkgs. Ship Spare Parts - Lina M. Guce 10 pkgs. Sports Goods - M.O.F. Co., Inc 10 bags Tapioca Starch - Forgems Mktg. Co. 6 ctns. Brochures - Aventis Pharma 8 bales Polyester Fabrics - Dae Kyung Garments 1 drum Expired Chemical - Phelps Semiconductor Phils. 5 bdls. TV Tables - Home Fashion 6 bags Unsaturated Resin - Wil-an Chem., Corp 1 case Personal effect - Vidar Kristiansen 1 ctn. Tools - Famous Pacific Phils 3 ctns. Sample Compressor - Florence B. Sison Location: Transient Warehouse
Floor Price: Php 111,750.00		
Lot No. 127-04	DORA WASHIKO R.A. 7651 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is'	1 unit used Cherokee Jeep, black, 4x4, a/t, with damage needs general repair VIN L4FJ78L8KL518125 Location: Customs Parking Compound (MICP)
Floor Price: Php 450,000.00		

Basic Guidelines:

1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)
3. PhP20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable)
4. The highest bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or Manager's Check immediately and the balance of 50% shall be paid within the next business day
5. After the second failed bidding, a particular lot may be offered to all qualified bidders for negotiated sale, subject to compliance of the requirements under Section IV-J of CMO 5-2003
6. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   - a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines - BOC MICP E.O.
   - b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs.
   - c. For the account of:

Bidder

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pie, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP. Tel. No. 247-09-77

(Sgd.) Atty. FELIPE A. BARTOLOME, CESO V
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – February 12, 2005)

Memorare - Manila 1945

In Commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the deaths of 100,000 non combatants who were killed during the liberation of Manila February 3 - March 3, 1945.

A Memorial Mass will be held today, Saturday, at San Agustin Church Intramuros Manila at 6:30 p.m.

In Memory
of

ISMAEL ARGUELLES CRUZ

22 February 1918 – 5 February 1945

Ateneo ROTC Cadet Officer, Bataan Volunteer,
33rd Infantry, 31st Division (USAFFE),
Survivor of the Death March and the P.O.W. Camp at Capas.

Tortured and killed during the massacre by Japanese Marines of unarmed non-combatants in Manila, on the night of 5 February 1945 in Paco.

His widow **Carmen Guerrero Cruz Nakpil**; his daughter, **Gemma Cruz Araneta**; his son, **Ismael Guerrero Cruz**; his children-in-law, **Antonio S. Araneta Jr.** and **Blesilda Ocampo Cruz**; his grandchildren, **Fatimah Araneta**, **Leon Araneta**, **Mauricio Cruz**, **Carlo Cruz**, **Ismael Cruz III** and **Carmen Cruz**.

Death

Then Almitra spoke, saying, We would ask now of Death.

And he said:

You would know the secret of death.

But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?

The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life.

For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond;

And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring.

Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to Eternity.

Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honour.

Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling, that he shall wear the mark of the king?

Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?

And what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

– Kahlil Gibran

In Memoriam

Dr. Nicanor I. Reyes

Founder and First President
of
Far Eastern University

his wife
Amparo Mendoza de Reyes

children
Teresita M. Reyes
Luis M. Reyes

relatives
Maximo, Purita, Edgardo Reyes

and
five household helpers

Non-combatant civilians who perished in their home, Agno Street, Malate, victims of Japanese atrocities during the battle for the liberation of Manila on February 9 and 10, 1945

"They did not live to see the dawn"

In loving memory of our family

Arrested 20 January 1945
and executed during the Battle for Manila
February 1945

Angelina Rico de McMicking
Consuelo McMicking de Hall
Alfred McMicking
Helen McMicking

May they rest in eternal peace

Dona Mercedes Zobel de McMicking, Henry A. McMicking, Roderick C. McM. and Ian C. McM. Hall, Consuelo Hall McHugh, Alexandra McMicking Ellsworth, Alfred L., Henry C. and Bennet B. McMicking

---

Victims of the massacre at De La Salle College on 12 February 1945

De La Salle Brothers

Brother Egbert Xavier, FSC
Brother Flavius Leo, FSC
Brother Alemond Lucian, FSC
Brother Baptist De La Salle Janos, FSC
Brother Adolf Gebhard, FSC
Brother Berthwin Philibert, FSC
Brother Arkadius Maria, FSC
Brother Friedbert Johannes, FSC
Brother Gerfried Joseph, FSC
Brother Lambert Romanus, FSC
Brother Mutwald William, FSC
Brother Paternus Paul, FSC
Brother Romuald Sixtus, FSc
Brother Hartman Hubert, FSC
Brother Maximum Maria, FSC
Brother Victorinus Heinrich, FSC

Refugees at the De La Salle College

The Carlos Family

Judge Jose Carlos
Mrs. Juanita Carlos
Asela Carlos
Cecilia Carlos
Antonio Carlos
Mateo (houseboy)

The Cojuangco Family

Dr. Antonio Cojuangco
Victoria Uychuico Cojuangco
Mrs. Natividad de las Alas Cojuangco
Antonio Cojuangco
Ricardo Bartolome
Carlos (houseboy)
Apolinario (cochero)

The Aquino Family

Trinidad Cojuangco Aquino

The Uychuico Family

Dr. Clemente Uychuico
Ramon Uychuico

The Vasquez-Prada Family

Enrique Vasquez-Prada
Helen Loewinsohn Vasquez-Prada
Enrique Vasquez-Prada
Herman Vasquez-Prada
Alfonso Vasquez-Prada
Armenia (housemaid)

Employees of the College

Anselmo Sudlan
Pamphilo Almodan
Ceferino Villamor

"Those who instruct many unto justice shall shine like the stars for all eternity" [Dan 12.3]

60th Death Anniversary

ENRIQUETA ROCHA
CECILIA ROCHA BURKMAN
TERESITA ROCHA

Killed by Japanese marines in the massacre of more than 600 non- combatant civilians at the German Club in Ermita, on February 10, 1945.

Their relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

---

60 ANIVERSARIO
DEL FALLECIMIENTO DE

Doña JOSEFINA PEREZ DE ROCHA

Quien entrego su alma al Creador el 13 de febrero de 1945 en Malate, victima de la artilleria norte Americana durante la liberacion de Manila.

Sus hijos, sobrinos, nietos, bisnietos, parientes politicos y demas familiares ruegan al piadoso lector una oracion por el eterno descanso de su alma.

I am one of the surviving children of **Ofelia Pamintuan Quioge** who was killed during the liberation of Manila. Although I was only 5 years old, what I remember was when we were in the shelter. Mommy was killed with a bayonet. My brother and sister with our nurse and cook were all killed in the next shelter.

We never found their bodies after the war. I just pray for them and miss my mother very much. Had she survived, she would have enjoyed her grandchildren.

Erlinda Pamintuan Quioge

Then a woman said, Speak
to us of Joy and Sorrow.
And he answered:
Your joy is your sorrow
unmasked.
And the selfsame well
from which your laughter
rises was oftentimes filled
with your tears.
And how else can it be?
The deeper that sorrow
carves into your being, the
more joy you can contain.
Is not the cup that holds
your wine the very cup that
was burned in the potter's
oven?
And is not the lute that
soothes your spirit, the
very wood that was
hollowed with knives?
When you are joyous, look deep into
your heart and you shall find it is only
that which has given you sorrow that is
giving you joy.
When you are sorrowful look again in
your heart, and you shall see that in truth
you are weeping for that which has been
your delight.

– Kahlil Gibran

Manuel Martinez Quintero
Jose Martinez Quintero
Milagros Yrastorza de Martinez
Teresita Martinez Yrastorza
Josefina Martinez Yrastorza
Jose Pavon Camahort
Manuela Martinez de Pavon
Lourdes Pavon Martinez
Miguelito Pavon Martinez
Antonia Pavon Martinez
Rita Pavon Martinez
Margarita Pavon Martinez
Francisco Lobo Miranda
Maria Luisa Martinez de Lobo
Manolito Lobo Martinez
Mari-Lou Lobo Martinez
Luisito Lobo Martinez
Concha Rebullida Vda. de Yrastorza
Manuel Carreon
Angelita Yrastorza de Carreon
Carmen Montero

Asesinados por las tropes japonesas el 13 de febrero de 1945.

In Memoriam

ALEJO VALDES PICA

3 November 1890 – 8 February 1945

"Hundido en las tinieblas, muero calladamente"
(AVP, 1919)

and son

RAMON VALDES LOPEZ

29 June 1920 – 8 February 1945

Machine-gunned and beheaded during the massacre by Japanese troops of unarmed non-combatants in Malate, Manila February 8, 1945.

From daughter and sister Filomena Valdes Mayoralgo; sister Carmen Valdes Nieto; grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other relatives.

60th Death Anniversary

Pray for the repose of the souls of Columban Fathers:

Fr. Patrick Kelly, SSC
Fr. John Henaghan, SSC
Fr. John Lalor, SSC
Fr. Peter Fallon, SSC
Fr. Joseph Monaghan, SSC

Victims of atrocities committed by Japanese Imperial Marines and American shelling in Malate during the liberation of Manila in February 1945.

60th Death Anniversary

VICENTE MONTEIRO

February 1945

Killed by Japanese imperial marines in Intramuros.

In loving memory of

Marita Lopez-Mena

Taken from the home of the McMickings in Feb 1945 by Japanese troops and never seen again.

Jessie Snyder Thompson Huberty

Q.E.P.D.

Los Esposos Concepcion y Julian Ortiz Ceballos Con Sus Hijos Conchitina y Ramoncito Vilmente Asesinads Por Tropas Japonesas En La Guerra Mundial II Durante La Liberacion de la Ciudad De Manila En Febrero 1945 Una Atrocidad Perdonada; Una inhumanidad Infame Por No Olvidar

Sus Parientes en Filipinas
Maria Antonia A. y Justo Ortiz Mantilla
Maria del Carmen O. y Luis Garcia Espina

Our thoughts and prayers are always with our family killed during the liberation of Manila in February 1945.

Alicia Quirino	by machine gunfire	Feb. 9
Norma Quirino	by machine gunfire	Feb. 9
Fe Quirino	by bayonet	Feb. 9
Armando Quirino	by sniper's bullet	Feb. 10
Concepcion Syquia	by shelling	Feb. 12
Margarita Syquia	by shelling	Feb. 12
Hector Syquia	by shelling	Feb. 12
Vicente Mendoza	by shelling	Feb. 12
Gregorio Mendoza	by shelling	Feb. 12

60th Death Anniversary

In Memory of

Carlos Perez-Rubio I
Milagros Alvarez de Perez-Rubio
Javier A. Perez-Rubio
Guadalupe A. Perez-Rubio
Rosa Perez-Rubio
Natividad Perez-Rubio Fox
Hubert T. Fox

Teria Dicdican (housekeeper), **Maximo Corteza, Akong, Ricardo Pedro, Porfirio, Hing Cho (AKA Ciong), Pelagia, Marina, Norma, Alfredo, Maria and son Alfonso, Igna** with her three children, and other househelp and refugees

Killed by Japanese Imperial Marines in the massacre of non-combatants at 150-160 Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila on February 12, 1945

Carlos A. Perez-Rubio II
Beheaded by the Japanese Kempei Tai in the massacre at the Masonic Temple, Taft Avenue, Manila on February 1945

The sole survivor, **Amb. Miguel A. Perez-Rubio and his family,** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of their souls.

In Memoriam

CARMEN BEECH SMELIANETZ
Children ALEX & MILAGROS
PILAR BEECH LOSA
Children JUAN, MANOLO,
CARMENCITA, PILINA & VICTORIA
MISS FELISA BEA

MASSACRED BY IMPERIAL JAPANESE MARINES ON FEBRUARY 10, 1945 AT THE GERMAN CLUB.

† MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

In loving memory of

Judge Manuel V. del Rosario
Manuel V. del Rosario, Jr.

dragged out of the air raid shelter and machine-gunned by Japanese soldiers on February 5, 1945.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

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M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate, Manila
(at the back of Chinese Embassy, Roxas Boulevard, Manila)

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UNITS FOR
SALE OR LEASE!
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READY FOR OCCUPANCY

SAN JUAN

CONDO UNIT FOR SALE 2.4M Quadrillon Mansion cor. M. Paterno St. & N. Domingo San Juan. Contact Reymaly CP#0917-4327579

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TEACHER'S VILL QC Brandnew Twnhse 6M 9132701 / 09189356366

SAN JUAN

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LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m^2 P3.473/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m^2 FA157m^2 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MANILA

1129 SQM APACIBLE COR. AGONCILLO MLA. T8885608

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m^2 P4,054/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

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2has San Juan P65m^2 (7)Lot 500m^2 P750m^2 Sto Tomas 0918-4204333

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2.284/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m^2 P165/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m^2 P6,028/m^2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

FEBRUARY 24, 2005 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • QUEEN JENNIFER HOTEL & RESTAURANT, Talavera Commercial Complex, Cauayan City, Isabela

ALICIA

LOT 1 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 3,605 sqm.
Lot 13-C Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 715,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 716 sqm. F.A: 165 sqm.
Lot 6-A & 6-B, Nat'l Rd., Victoria
Min. Bid Price : 1,626,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,014 sqm. F.A: 102 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 3, Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 171,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 112 sqm. F.A: 200 sqm.
Lot 14-A, Calaocan
Min. Bid Price : 1,239,000.00

AURORA

LOT 5 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A: 105 sqm.
Lot 2645-B, #115, Tanza St., San Juan Dist.
Min. Bid Price : 312,000.00

LOT 6 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 807 sqm.
Lot 1618-A-2-B-3, Corner Provincial Road And Cacal St., Bagong Linis
Min. Bid Price : 705,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 909 sqm. F.A: 496 sqm.
Lot 1618-A-2-G-1-C & Lot 1618-A-2-G-1-A Cacal St., Bagong Linis
Min. Bid Price : 875,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 315 sqm.
Lot 4, Cor. Provincial Road And Cacal Sts., Bagong Linis,Sta. Rita
Min. Bid Price : 479,000.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 138 sqm.
Lot 2989-A Pasuquin St., San Pedro/San Pablo
Min. Bid Price : 166,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,103 sqm. F.A: 44 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy. San Ramon
Min. Bid Price : 554,000.00

BURGOS

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,200 sqm. F.A: 99 sqm.
Lots 3-B-4, 3-B-5 & 3-5-B-6 Provincial Road, Masigun East
Min. Bid Price : 726,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A : 347 sqm. F.A: 207 sqm.
Lot 20234-C, Caliguian
Min. Bid Price : 698,000.00

CABAGAN

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 539 sqm. F.A: 252 sqm.
Lot 2430 Cubag
Min. Bid Price : 346,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,100 sqm.
Lot 2219-A Cubag
Min. Bid Price : 66,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,203 sqm.
Lot 2219-B Cubag
Min. Bid Price : 80,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 137 sqm. F.A: 123 sqm.
Lot 7-B-2,Municipl Rd., Poblen.
Min. Bid Price : 508,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 550 sqm. F.A: 109 sqm.
Lot 1406-D & Lot 1406-E Barrio Of Luquilu
Min. Bid Price : 405,000.00

CABATUAN

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 371 sqm. F.A: 74 sqm.
Lot 1-B-10, Acob St., Del Pilar
Min. Bid Price : 334,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,159 sqm.
Lot 2152-N-1-B, Along Provincial Road, Magdalena
Min. Bid Price : 1,416,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 767 sqm.
Lot 2208-B, Centro
Min. Bid Price : 436,000.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 540 sqm.
Lot 2204-B Along Prv'L Rd., Purok 1, Saranay
Min. Bid Price : 513,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,363 sqm. F.A: 51 sqm.
Lot 2098-E-4-A & 2098-E-4-B Barrio Of Paraiso
Min. Bid Price : 616,000.00

CAUAYAN

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,629 sqm.
Lot B-5-B-1-C Cabaruan
Min. Bid Price : 285,000.00

Centro (Now San Fermin)

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 453 sqm. F.A: 60 sqm.
Lot E-3-B & 3-G-1
Min. Bid Price : 3,417,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 514 sqm.
Lot 3-G-3 & 3-G-4
Min. Bid Price : 2,056,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 627 sqm. F.A: 30 sqm.
Lot 3-F & 3-G-2
Min. Bid Price : 4,128,000.00

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,350 sqm.
Lot E,District I
Min. Bid Price : 119,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 649 sqm. F.A: 86 sqm.
Lot 1-A-21-L, F. Dalupang St., Extension, District 1
Min. Bid Price : 1,107,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 18,254 sqm.
Lot 159, Brgy. Maligaya
Min. Bid Price : 52,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A: 155 sqm.
Lot 4-A Along Nat'L Hihgway, Minante
Min. Bid Price : 1,313,000.00

LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 672 sqm.
Lot C-5 Along National Hi-Way, Brgy. Nungnungun
Min. Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 513 sqm.
Lot 4, Provincial Rd., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 1,732,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 460 sqm. F.A: 133 sqm.
Lot 20 Prenza(Now San Fermin)
Min. Bid Price : 717,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 39-E Barrio Rd., Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 298,000.00

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot B-5-C Nat'L Rd.Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 1,425,000.00

LOT 36 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot B-5-D Nat'L Rd. Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 1,663,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,000 sqm.
Lot B-5-E & Lot B-5-F-3-S-5 Nat'L Rd. Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 3,840,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,497 sqm.
Lots 3,1,& 5, Nat'l Rd., Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 2,246,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 395 sqm.
Lot 1-E Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 119,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 42,769 sqm.
Lot A, San Antonio (Formerly Maog-Oguing)
Min. Bid Price : 909,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 9,674 sqm.
Lot D-9-A, San Fermin
Min. Bid Price : 2,835,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 382 sqm.
Lot 19, Sillawit
Min. Bid Price : 87,000.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 484 sqm.
Lot B-2-D, Tagaran
Min. Bid Price : 51,000.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 391 sqm.
Lot B-2-G, Tagaran
Min. Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 391 sqm.
Lot B-2-H, Tagaran
Min. Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,645 sqm. F.A: 28 sqm.
Lot 134, Turayong
Min. Bid Price : 59,000.00

CORDON

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 3,713 sqm. F.A: 170 sqm.
Lot 4803-A, 8167-C-6-B-7 & 8167-C-6-B-6, Along National Highway, Capirpirwan
Min. Bid Price : 1,860,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,346 sqm. F.A: 102 sqm.
Lot Nos. 2-A & Lot 1, Corner Tumunot & Brgy. Rd.,Turod Sur
Min. Bid Price : 898,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 198 sqm. F.A: 64 sqm.
Lot A, Municipal Rd.,Turod Sur
Min. Bid Price : 426,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 10998-B-1, Tanggal
Min. Bid Price : 114,000.00

DELFIN ALBANO

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 4,998 sqm.
Lot2-H-6-A, Prov'L Rd.,Brgy. Rd., Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 126,000.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 779 sqm.
Lot 2-H-6-D-3, Ragan Sur
Min. Bid Price : 67,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,142 sqm. F.A: 129 sqm.
Lot 16, Prov'L Rd., Galutern St., San Antonio
Min. Bid Price : 787,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 575 sqm. F.A: 57 sqm.
Lot B, Prov'L Rd., Ragan Sur
Min. Bid Price : 390,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 3,757 sqm. F.A: 86 sqm.
Lot 1804-A & 1804-B Ragan Sur, Barrio Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 717,000.00

ECHAGUE

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 744 sqm. F.A: 72 sqm.
Lot 161, Poblacion (Formerly Taggapan)
Min. Bid Price : 443,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 30,000 sqm.
Lot 4851-B, Arabiat
Min. Bid Price : 183,000.00

E.M. PINZON SUBD, SAN FABIAN

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 13
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 15
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 19
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 21
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 396 sqm. Lot 23
Min. Bid Price : 438,000.00

GAMU

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 8,625 sqm. F.A: 88 sqm.
Lot 60, N, E, S & W: Barrio Rd., Brgy. Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 1,041,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 17 Along Nat'L Road, Upi
Min. Bid Price : 68,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 564 sqm.
Lot 4238-A-3-D Along Upi-Roxas Road Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 45,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,429 sqm. F.A: 168 sqm.
Lot 1510 Corner Libertad And Las Perlas Sts., District 1
Min. Bid Price : 1,295,000.00

ILAGAN

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 13858-A, Alibagu
Min. Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 13858-F, Alibagu
Min. Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,200 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2-D-4 & Lot 1-B-2-D-3 Alibagu
Min. Bid Price : 1,392,000.00

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 488 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 15 Capitol Hill, Calamagui
Min. Bid Price : 59,000.00

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 447 sqm.
Lot No.7 Calamagui 1St
Min. Bid Price : 75,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,490 sqm.
Lot 2-A Calamagui 2Nd
Min. Bid Price : 507,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 553 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 15 Capitol Hill, Calamagui
Min. Bid Price : 31,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 362 sqm. F.A: 85 sqm.
Lot 13069 Along Nat'L Road Marana 1St
Min. Bid Price : 212,000.00

JONES

LOT 75 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 747 sqm. F.A: 92 sqm.
Lot 791-A-1, Cabanuangan St., Brgy. 2
Min. Bid Price : 622,000.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 9,540 sqm.
Lot F & Lot G Fugo
Min. Bid Price : 268,000.00

MALLIG

LOT 77 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 537 sqm. F.A: 91 sqm.
Lot Nos. 72 & 71-A, Casili
Min. Bid Price : 764,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,916 sqm.
Lot 1031-A-1-D Nat'L Road, Centro 1
Min. Bid Price : 1,006,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 439 sqm.
Lot21,Poblacion(Now Centro II)
Min. Bid Price : 71,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 469 sqm.
Lot22,Poblacion(Now Centro II)
Min. Bid Price : 76,000.00

RANG-AYAN

LOT 81 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,041 sqm.
Lot 767-J, Brgy. San Jose
Min. Bid Price : 125,000.00

LOT 82 - FISHPOND
L.A.: 2,729 sqm.
Lot 767-R-1, R-2, & R-3
Min. Bid Price : 96,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 10,000 sqm.
F.A: 146 sqm.
Lot 767-S. Rang-Ayan
Min. Bid Price : 262,000.00

LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 3,173 sqm.
Lot No. 767-U-1, U-2, &U-3
Min. Bid Price : 254,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,635 sqm. F.A: 110 sqm.
Lot 771-A
Min. Bid Price : 434,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 750 sqm.
Lot 3728,San Jose Norte
Min. Bid Price : 141,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 748 sqm. F.A: 105 sqm.
Lot 3833 San Jose Norte
Min. Bid Price : 554,000.00

LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 752 sqm.
Lot 3903, San Jose Norte
Min. Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 732 sqm. F.A: 105 sqm.
Lots 4108-A & Lot 4108-B Siempee Viva
Min. Bid Price : 914,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,094 sqm. F.A: 180 sqm.
Lot 39-M, National Road, Brgy.Victoria
Min. Bid Price : 717,000.00

NAGUILIAN

LOT 91 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 481 sqm. F.A: 97 sqm.
Lot 24 Nat'L Rd. Brgy. San Manuel
Min. Bid Price : 411,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 92 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A: 87 sqm.
Lot 2686-A, Abut
Min. Bid Price : 215,000.00

LOT 93 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 2686-C, Abut
Min. Bid Price : 70,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 459 sqm. F.A: 162 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 4, Abut
Min. Bid Price : 381,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 9,973 sqm.
Lot 2679-B-2 Barrio Abut
Min. Bid Price : 195,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 465 sqm. F.A: 51 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 13, Barrio Abut
Min. Bid Price : 243,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 536 sqm. F.A: 129 sqm.
Lot Nos. 8-A & 8-B Blk 13 Abut
Min. Bid Price : 74,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 786 sqm. F.A: 103 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 5, National Rd. Abut
Min. Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 896 sqm. F.A: 213 sqm.
Lot 2 & 2-A,Block 108, Arellano
Min. Bid Price : 1,437,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 900 sqm. F.A: 288 sqm.
Lot 4-A & 4-B Nat'L Rd. Arellano
Min. Bid Price : 2,635,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 750 sqm. F.A: 95 sqm.
Lot 5-A & 5-B, S: Municipal Rd., E: Perpetual Road Row. Arellano
Min. Bid Price : 633,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,141 sqm. F.A: 60 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk. 4, No. 069, Sw:Road(Blk. 13), Manga
Min. Bid Price : 88,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 889 sqm. F.A: 323 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 71, National Road, Samonte
Min. Bid Price : 1,638,000.00

QUIRINO

LOT 104 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,794 sqm.
Lot 23-B San Juan
Min. Bid Price : 79,000.00

ROXAS

BANTUG

LOT 105 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 140 sqm.
Lots 4 & 6, Blk.2, Nat'l Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,670,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm.
Lot 6 & 7 Blk 4 Nat'L Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,012,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 94 sqm.
Lots 3 & 4 Blk 7, Nat'l Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 870,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 228 sqm. F.A: 195 sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 7787-A-1 Leal St.
Min. Bid Price : 2,869,000.00

LOT 109 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 420 sqm.
Lot 7614-B-4,Nat'l Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,995,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,643 sqm. F.A: 148 sqm.
Lot 166-C, Brgy. Muñoz East
Min. Bid Price : 730,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 5,070 sqm.
Lo T5797-B, Sotero Nuesa
Min. Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 186 sqm.
Lot 7729-B-1, President Sergio Osmeña Ave., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 1,780,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 270 sqm. F.A: 175 sqm.
Lot 7839-B, Melancio Taganas St., Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 3,439,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 373 sqm. F.A: 192 sqm.
Lot 7876-C, Manuel Luis Quezon St., Brgy. Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 1,535,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 744 sqm. F.A: 248 sqm.
Lot 7855 J.P. Rizal St., Cor. Cm Recto St.,Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 1,729,000.00

LOT 116 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 270 sqm. F.A: 266 sqm.
Lot 7840-B-1, Don Mariano Marcos Ave.
Min. Bid Price : 4,334,000.00

LOT 117 - VACANT LOT
L.A : 12,768 sqm.
Lot 5723-B-3-C-3, Brgy. San Placido
Min. Bid Price : 115,000.00

LOT 118 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 5,331 sqm.
Lot 5723-B-3-A, Nat'l Rd, San Placido
Min. Bid Price : 559,000.00

LOT 119 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 737 sqm.
Lot 88 Brgy. Sumimbaan
Min. Bid Price : 63,000.00

BANTUG (FORMERLY VIRA)

LOT 120 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 104 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 2 & Lot 16, Blk 2. National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,365,000.00

LOT 121 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk. 4
Min. Bid Price : 368,000.00

LOT 122 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk. 4
Min. Bid Price : 368,000.00

LOT 123 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk. 4, National Road
Min. Bid Price : 684,000.00

LOT 124 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 13, Blk. 4, National Road,
Min. Bid Price : 684,000.00

LOT 125 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 60 sqm.
Lots 9 & 10, Blk 7, Nat'l Rd .
Min. Bid Price : 1,084,000.00

LOT 126 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 7
Min. Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 127 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11
Min. Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 128 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 544 sqm.
Lot 90, Facoma Site
Min. Bid Price : 232,000.00

LOT 129 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 534 sqm.
Lot 91, Facoma Site
Min. Bid Price : 227,000.00

LOT 130 VACANT LOT
L.A : 345 sqm.
Lot 93, Facoma Subd
Min. Bid Price : 148,000.00

LOT 131 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.. 240 sqm. F.A: 81 sqm.
Lot 535-F-1, Marcelo H. Del Pilar St., Vira
Min. Bid Price : 801,000.00

LOT 132 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 732 sqm. F.A: 122 sqm.
Lot 546-D-1, Gen. Gregorio Del Pilar St, Vira
Min. Bid Price : 837,000.00

LOT 133 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 564 sqm.
Lot 7878-A, Doña Aurora St., Brgy. Vira
Min. Bid Price : 480,000.00

LOT 134 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 985 sqm. F.A: 252 sqm.
Lots 487-A & 487-B. Provincial Road, Vira
Min. Bid Price : 2,509,000.00

LOT 135 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 302 sqm.
Lot 7714-B, Gen Antonio Luna St., Vira
Min. Bid Price : 530,000.00

LOT 136 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 623 sqm.
Lot 7784 Leal St. Bantug
Min. Bid Price : 1,169,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 137 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 513 sqm. F.A: 54 sqm.
Lot 4578-Q-2-D-3-C, Prrow, Ramos West
Min. Bid Price : 224,000.00

LOT 138 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 171 sqm.
Lot 4578-Q-2-D-3-A, Ramos West
Min. Bid Price : 41,000.00

LOT 139 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 404 sqm.
Lot 4578-Q-2-D-3-B, Prrow, Ramos West
Min. Bid Price : 78,000.00

LOT 140 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 35,511 sqm.
F.A: 347 sqm.
Lot 7877-C-2-A, National Rd., Ramos East
Min. Bid Price : 6,075,000.00

LOT 141 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 17,744 sqm.
F.A: 186 sqm.
Lot 7877-C-2-B, National Road, Ramos East
Min. Bid Price : 2,212,000.00

SAN MANUEL

LOT 142 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,163 sqm. F.A: 76 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Brgy. Cabaritan
Min. Bid Price : 1,350,000.00

LOT 143 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,651 sqm.
Lot No. 4-K Cabaritan
Min. Bid Price : 396,000.00

LOT 144 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 800 sqm. F.A: 160 sqm.
Lot No. 4-L Cabaritan
Min. Bid Price : 648,000.00

LOT 145 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 505 sqm. F.A: 117 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-C-1 & Lot 1-B-3-C-2 Nat'L Rd. Dist I
Min. Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 146 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,994 sqm. F.A: 163 sqm.
Lots 992 & 991, National Road, Dist. 1 (Centro)
Min. Bid Price : 2,121,000.00

LOT 147 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 678 sqm. F.A: 80 sqm.
Lots 1 & 2, Blk 3, Bonifacio St., District 3
Min. Bid Price : 1,377,000.00

LOT 148 - VACANT LOT
L.A : 174 sqm.
Lot 24, Blk. 2, Rd. Lot 1, Rd. Lot 3, Dist. 3
Min. Bid Price : 74,000.00

LOT 149 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 324 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 4, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 156,000.00

LOT 150 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 304 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 4, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 146,000.00

LOT 151 VACANT LOT
L.A : 334 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 7, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 40,000.00

LOT 152 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 303 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 7, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 146,000.00

LOT 153 VACANT LOT
L.A.: 321 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 7, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 155,000.00

LOT 154 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,500 sqm. F.A: 229 sqm.
Lot 7232 & 7233, Barrio Eden
Min. Bid Price : 1,447,000.00

LOT 155 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 20,000 sqm.
Lot 3342-B, Brgy. Eden
Min. Bid Price : 413,000.00

LOT 156 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 20,000 sqm.
Lot 5186-B-1, Nueva Era
Min. Bid Price : 413,000.00

LOT 157 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,701 sqm. F.A: 108 sqm.
Lot 8-8, 7004 & 7005 Sandiat East
Min. Bid Price : 755,000.00

SAN MARIANO

LOT 158 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 742 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 190, Bugallon St., Cor. Gumpal St., Zone III
Min. Bid Price : 554,000.00

SAN MATEO

LOT 159 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 3,000 sqm.
Lot 7030-Q-5-G, Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 715,000.00

LOT 160 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,423 sqm.
Lot 9842-B-2-A & Lot 9842-B-2-M Provicial Rd., Poblacion I
Min. Bid Price : 1,466,000.00

LOT 161 - VACANT LOT
L.A : 30,000 sqm.
Lot 6710-D-3 Barrio Lawliwa(New Villa Cruz)
Min. Bid Price : 735,000.00

LOT 162 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A : 484 sqm.
Lot 9482-B-1, Daramuangan Sur
Min. Bid Price : 775,000.00

LOT 163 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 801 sqm. F.A: 297 sqm.
Lot 8423-A-17 Bonifacio St. Brgy. 4, Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 1,058,000.00

LOT 164 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 680 sqm. F.A: 620 sqm.
Lot 9841-F-1B & Lot 9841-F-1-A Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 4,051,000.00

LOT 165 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 541 sqm. F.A: 595 sqm.
Lot 9842-A Brgy 1 Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 2,379,000.00

SANTIAGO

LOT 166 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm. F.A: 109 sqm.
Lot 1646-A-1, Along National Road, Purok Paraiso, Batal
Min. Bid Price : 1,951,000.00

LOT 167 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 974 sqm. F.A: 55 sqm.
Lot 10713-L, Rrow, Batal
Min. Bid Price : 799,000.00

LOT 168 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 126 sqm. F.A: 212 sqm.
Lot 28611-B & 28611-A, City Road Corner Bonifacio St., Calao East
Min. Bid Price : 2,252,000.00

LOT 169 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 21, Blk. 8, Santiago Heights Subd., Calaocan
Min. Bid Price : 102,000.00

LOT 170 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 312 sqm.
Lot 5, #25 Gaffud St., Centro East
Min. Bid Price : 1,127,000.00

LOT 171 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 318 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 312-D-2, Landlocked, Dubinan West
Min. Bid Price : 602,000.00

LOT 172 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 293 sqm. F.A: 88 sqm.
Lot 6-B-4, No. 31 Ancheta St Ext., Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 905,000.00

LOT 173 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,407 sqm.
Lot 482-F-9, Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 901,000.00

LOT 174 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,113 sqm. F.A: 48 sqm.
Lot No. 482-F-3, Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 2,966,000.00

LOT 175 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,349 sqm.
Lot No. 482-F-4 Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 1,890,000.00

LOT 176 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-A Patul
Min. Bid Price : 373,000.00

LOT 177 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-B Patul
Min. Bid Price : 373,000.00

LOT 178 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
Lot 752-E-7 Patul
Min. Bid Price : 675,000.00

LOT 179 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 752-E-8 Patul
Min. Bid Price : 450,000.00

LOT 180 VACANT LOT
L.A.. 765 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-1 & B-5,Along V. Mapa And Torres Sts.,Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,645,000.00

LOT 181 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 367 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-2,Along Torres, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,046,000.00

LOT 182 - VACANT LOT
L.A : 382 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-3,Along V. Mapa, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,089,000.00

LOT 183 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 259 sqm. F.A: 214 sqm.
Lot 31, Blk. 9, No. 24 Pearl. Cor. Peridot Sts., Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,446,000.00

LOT 184 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,522 sqm. F.A: 120 sqm.
Lot 7311-A-2-A, Veterans St. Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 2,029,000.00

LOT 185 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,538 sqm. F.A: 72 sqm.
Lot 20037, No. 26 Purok 2, Madamba St., Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 1,393,000.00

LOT 186 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 631 sqm. F.A: 400 sqm.
Lot 1020 & 1021, Del Pilar St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 2,107,000.00

LOT 187 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 893 sqm. F.A: 98 sqm.
Lot 10053-A, Gomez St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 1,378,000.00

LOT 188 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,747 sqm. F.A: 115 sqm.
Lot 10053-B, & 10053-C,Gomez St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 2,508,000.00

LOT 189 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,726 sqm.
Lot Nos. 10053-D & 10053-E, Gomez St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 2,296,000.00

LOT 190 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,040 sqm. F.A: 194 sqm.
Lot 1465-D-2-B, 1465-D-2-A,1465-D-1,National Road, San Andres
Min. Bid Price : 4,297,000.00

LOT 191 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 244 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 1201, Zamora St. St., Victory Norte
Min. Bid Price : 948,000.00

LOT 192 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 137 sqm. F.A: 42 sqm.
Lot #103, Abaya St., Victory Norte
Min. Bid Price : 459,000.00

LOT 193 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 261 sqm. F.A: 138 sqm.
Lot 755, Recto Ave., No. 16 Victory Sur
Min. Bid Price : 881,000.00

LOT 194 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 299 sqm. F.A: 192 sqm.
Lot 621 No. 21 Recto Ave., Victory Sur
Min. Bid Price : 928,000.00

LOT 195 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 206 sqm. F.A: 87 sqm.
Lot 11048-F, Gaffud St., Villasis
Min. Bid Price : 1,463,000.00

STO.TOMAS

LOT 196 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 646 sqm.
Lot 17-D, Brgy. Rd., Bubog
Min. Bid Price : 49,000.00

LOT 197 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 453 sqm. F.A: 391 sqm.
Lot F2-A & F-1, Brgy. Rd., Calinaoan
Min. Bid Price : 299,000.00

LOT 198 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 588 sqm. F.A: 114 sqm.
Lot O-5, Brgy. Rd., Calinagan
Min. Bid Price : 132,000.00

LOT 199 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,254 sqm.
Lot 2-D, Calanigan
Min. Bid Price : 84,000.00

TUMAUINI

LOT 200 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 249 sqm.
Lot 1860-B, Pascaran, District Ii
Min. Bid Price : 107,000.00

LOT 201 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 250 sqm. F.A: 199 sqm.
Lot 1860-A, Dela Cruz St., District Ii
Min. Bid Price : 585,000.00

LOT 202 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 570 sqm.
Lot 1597-B District Iv
Min. Bid Price : 310,000.00

LOT 203 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 570 sqm. F.A: 63 sqm.
Lot 1597-A Along Angubong St., District Iv
Min. Bid Price : 442,000.00

LOT 204 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 900 sqm.
Lot 967-A Maligaya
Min. Bid Price : 180,000.00

LOT 205 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 900 sqm.
Lots D, E, F,Maligaya
Min. Bid Price 88,000.00

LOT 206 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 269 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 2578, Dist. 1, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 541,000.00

LOT 207 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,684 sqm. F.A: 420 sqm.
Lot 2614-B, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 861,000.00

LOT 208 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A : 3,002 sqm.
F.A: 457 sqm.
Lot 10393-A & 10393-B, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price
3,535,000.00

LOT 209 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.. 7,802 sqm.
F.A: 160 sqm.
Lot 11434-A & 11434-B, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price
1,743,000.00

LOT 210 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 230 sqm.
F.A: 72 sqm.
Lot 2260, Brgy. Rd., San Pedro
Min. Bid Price : 352,000.00

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CAVITE

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MAKATI

3BR+DEN 18 LEO ST. BEL-AIR T8885607/8

PARANAQUE

4BR 3TB NR SM BCTAN 19T 2 GARAGE BONG 09178571049

QUEZON CITY

4BR Proj. 4 QC 931-6723

Proj8 3car grge 24T 9137513

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418•0918 9390355 Rose

MANILA

BAYBRIDGE HOME BLK2 LOT2 9289541/7361925/7213035

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Near MRT Shaw 2br 2t&b w/Parking 13T 0917-8867494

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BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/Tintin 5277616

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1BR,2BR nr P.GIL 5891978 5634007

Tondo 7T 2BR 1TB 252-8553

MANDALUYONG

STUDIO TYPE P5T Mand. Tel 5338536 Jazel or Marlyn

MARIKINA

1BR mezzanine with TB & CG 10Calamnsi Con 1 T6451953

BNew 2-sty 2 Big BR w/ Grge Tierra Vista Subd. 9480309

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00CRV4x4 P585 a/t 09184238154

02 Accord VTI-s a/t 575T 9254566

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02 CivicVTI 560T m/t 4361294

ST SEWING MACH 8242198

MITSUBISHI

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'05 Adventure GLX Diesel BNew 135T D/P Call 0917-6206816

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Nueva Vizcaya State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **NUEVA VIZCAYA STATE UNIVERSITY** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Salvador H. Escudero III.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Filipino citizen
- Preferably a holder of a doctoral degree
- Preferably between 40 to 60 years old but not more than 60 at the time of application
- Must be morally upright
- With recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe and industry
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
- Ombudsman
- Sandiganbayan
- Civil Service Commission
- Previous Employer

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with

- Detailed curriculum vitaé and certified supporting documents
- Proposed Vision, Mission and Thrust of the University
- Results of the neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any Government physician or any accredited health institution
- Medical Certificate from a government physician

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit eight (8) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents not later than March 18, 2005 to:

The Office of CHED Commissioner SATURNINO M. OCAMPO, Jr.
c/o MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
CHED, 5/F, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693
or

Mrs. BELLA B. RUMBAUA
Board Secretary V
Nueva Vizcaya State University
Bayombong Campus
Bayombong 3700 Nueva Vizcaya
Tel. No. (078) 805-1421
Fax No. (078) 321-2112

Mrs. JUNE GRACE C. DOMINGO
Board Secretary V
Nueva Vizcaya State University
Bambang Campus
Bambang 3702 Nueva Vizcaya
Tel. No. (078) 803-1060
Fax No. (078) 321-3037

(PDI - Feb. 12 & 16, 2005)

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- Excellent communication skills – verbally and written
- Able to work unsupervised and meet deadlines

Web Programmer

- Javascript, HTML, PHP, ASP. Net, VB.Net, XML, LINUX ADMIN
- Excellent knowledge of Network environment (Unix, Linux, Microsoft SQL, SSL, ODBC)
- Support LAN/WAN
- Working knowledge of mail, Proxy, and firewall systems
- Excellent communication skills – verbally and written

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- Good understanding of interactive usability guidelines
- Excellent comprehension of colour matching
- Experience in video editing
- 3D skills an advantage

Ideal candidates will be proactive team players with initiative and ability to meet multiple deadlines whilst demonstrating pride in their work. We encourage creative work environment and are seeking individuals who can contribute ideas for projects. Must have minimum of 1 year experience unless the candidate can prove adequate skills. International travel may be required.

If you have the skills to fill any of these roles send your *resume with a photo id* to hr@celsiusmedia.com (via email only). Interviews conducted in March, Makati Metro Manila. Applications close February 28, 2005

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known to the public that: All rights of ownership of and interest in that real property consisting of a house and lot located at No. 1870 SAGU STREET, DASMARIÑAS VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY, currently registered under the name of **MA. LOURDES RODRIGUEZ-SOLIVEN** and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. 220864, issued by the Register of Deeds of Makati on Dec.22, 2004 has been sold, transferred and conveyed to **MUKESH S. ADVANI**, by virtue of a Deed of Absolute Sale executed on 19 January 2005 by and between Ms. Rodriguez-Soliven as Seller and Mr. Advani as Buyer.

Said property was previously owned by one **EUGENIO J. PUYAT** under TCT-No. 275506, issued by the Register of Deeds of Makati City.

Any inquiry on the foregoing sale may be directed to Mr. Advani at telephone number 643-6993.

(Sgd) **MUKESH S. ADVANI**
Buyer

(PDI - Feb. 7 & 12, 2005)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE LOSS OF S2 CARD 079790 OWNED BY CELESTE L. CAMPOMANES MD

ORTHODONTICS
Asian Institute for Orthodontics announces the opening of new group class start Feb. 16, 05 pls call 928-0481 for reservation

AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ
PAWNSHOP INC.
CAEG Bldg. #7611 Dela Rosa St.,Makati City #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen. Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on FEBRUARY 19, 2005 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to SEPTEMBER 2004. - V. Zamora Jr. lic. Auctioneer.
(PDI - FEBRUARY 12, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BIENVENIDO A. LAPUT has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs before notary public Lucila M. Lawas-Yuton as per Doc 161, Page 33; Book 448 Series of 2004 (PDI-Feb. 5, 12, 19, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given that Plates No. NYA-680 registered in the name of DIONISIO M. MAQUIO, was lost per Affidavit of Loss dated Jan. 26, 2005 under the Notarial Registry of Atty. Leonardo F. Gonzales as Doc. 04; Page 01; Book 101; Series of 2005.
(PDI-Jan 29 Feb 5 & 12 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS
Notice is hereby given that Plates No. NXT-520 registered in the name of EM TRANSPORT CORPORATION, was lost per Affidavit of Loss dated Nov. 23, 2004 under the Notarial Registry of Atty Rodolfo L. Lopez as Doc 339, Page 66, Book XIX-A, Series of 2004
(PDI-Feb 5 12 & 19 2005)

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Lemery, Batangas	328	com'l.lot with 3 storey bldg. (Ideal for Computer School)	12,000,000.00
Natatas, Tanauan	1278	res.lot/orchard lot	383,400.00
Luyos, Tanauan	5481	agriland	1,096,200.00
Ma. Paz, Tanauan	2506	res. lot	626,500.00
Santor, Tanauan	6653	agriland	532,240.00
Boot, Tanauan	1.8 hec.(2 parcels)	agriland	2,000,000.00
LAGUNA			
Pagsawitan, Sta. Cruz	1 parcel - 3,000	com'l.lot (Ideal for Bus Terminal)	32,524,114.34
	1 parcel - 1,000	com'l.lot (Ideal for Bus Terminal)	
Poblacion, Sta. Cruz	1 parcel - 121	com'l. lot with bldg.	10,940,320.00
	1 parcel - 271	com'l. lot with bldg.	
Mayapa, Calamba	353	res. lot with bldg.	700,000.00
Lecheria, Calamba	1.3 hec. (3 parcels)	com'l. lot with bldg. (Ideal for Minimall, Hotel cum Restaurant and Convention Hall, etc.)	120,000,000.00
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IN THE MATTER OF
EXQUISITE RESOURCES & FINANCING CO., INC.
(Formerly: Exquisite Lending Investor, Inc.)

APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provisions of R.A. No. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be located in Mandaue City

The applicant's capital structure is as follows

	Authorized Capital Stock	Subscribed Capital Stock	Paid-up Capital Stock
Preferred	P9,900,000.00	P9,900,000.00	P9,900,000.00
Common	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total	P10,000,000.00	P10,000,000.00	P10,000,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name	Position
Ma. Regina O. Alvares	Director/President
Adolfo Y Flores	Director/Vice-President
Brita B. Quisumbing	Director/Treasurer
Eric D. Borja	Director/Corp. Secretary
Nenita G. Renacia	Director

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/ Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. No. 8556, the Implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.
January 12, 2005

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI - Feb. 12 & 19, 2005)

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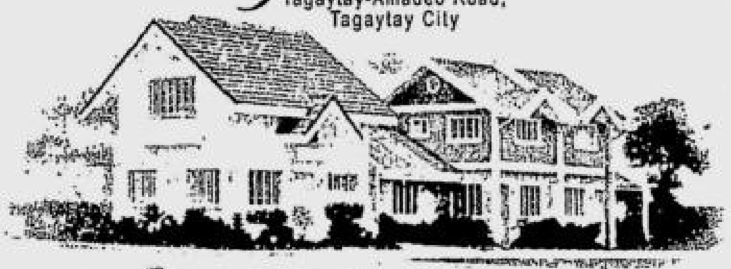

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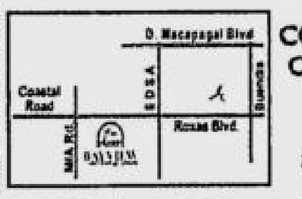

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"Happy now are the dead who die in the Lord ... They shall find rest from their labors for their good works accompany them." (Rev: 14:13)

In Loving Memory of our Beloved Daddy

COL. EPIFANIO UY FIRMACION (RET) PC

"Bro. Panyong"

of
Castillejos, Zambales & Cagayan De Oro City
Cursillo No. 9 Decurra of St. Jude, Pila, Laguna

Died in the Grace of our Lord in Fontana, CA, U.S.A.
on January 27, 2005

His loving wife, **Emily**; children **Estela & Capt. Ernesto Llamas, Edwina & PSSupt Arturo Invento, Elinor & Apuleo Lagahit, Esmeralda & Joseph Lazo**; grandchildren **Ernestine, Epifanio II & Irisa Claire, Jomari, Krissy & Jomi, Tony Boy, Armon & Marie**; great grandchildren **Alyssa, Ramona & Julianna**; request the pious readers to pray for the soul of Epifanio.

Memorial services will be held at:

- Phimra Multi-Purpose Center, Moonwalk Parañaque (beside HEP) at 8:00 P.M, February 13, Sunday • 8:00 P.M. February 14, Monday
- San Antonio De Padua Parish Church, Cagayan de Oro City at 5:00 P.M. February 17, Thursday
- St. Michael the Archangel Chapel, Camp Crame, Quezon City, February 18, Friday (vigil)

Interment will be on February 19, 2005; Saturday at 12:00 noon at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Please omit flowers, donations will be appreciated to support Pan ni San Antonio (Bread of St. Anthony) feeding program & Lily of St. Anthony Learning Center in San Antonio de Padua Parish Cagayan de Oro City.

The Board of Directors and members of the

German Club
Manila
1906

mourn the death of their long time member

ROBERT H. DUSSLER

who passed away suddenly on 9.February 2005
at the age of 58.

His remains lie in state at
Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, EDSA

Cremation will take place at the same premises on
Sunday, 13.February 2005 at 4PM

---

†

ROBERT H. DUSSLER

21.April 1946 – 9.February 2005

Lieber Robert,
Du wirst uns allen sehr fehlen.

Deine Freunde

DEATH NOTICES

PABLITO REGLOS, Sr.

Died in the grace of our Lord
on February 11, 2005
at the age of 69.

Body lies in state at the family residence in Quipot, San Juan, Batangas.

CIPRIANO M. FIGUERAS

..81 years old, a veteran travel agent, President and General Manager of United Travel Consultants, Inc passed away peacefully onto eternal life last 8 February 2005.

He is survived by his children Bi, Terry, Mariano, Alice, Dang, Poch and grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at Christ the King Funeral Chapel A, Green Meadows, Quezon City and will be cremated 13 February 2005 after which his ashes shall be interred with that of his wife, Conchita Lerma Figueras.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

Anselma Villarina Zuñiga

of Surigao City

who peacefully joined our Creator on February 07, 2005 at the age of 75.

Her beloved husband **MELITON CORTEZ ZUÑIGA**, children **MARITES** and **FRED**, **MARILOU**, **CESAR** and **JEAN**, **BONG** and **CHIQUI**, **MICHAEL** and **AILEEN**, **POCHOLO**, grandchildren **ROMMEL**, **GRACE**, **JUSTIN**, **NIÑA**, **IVAN**, **STEPHANIE**, **PAOLO**, **MONIQUE**, **MIGUEL**, **ANGELICA**, **MARK**, **MIKKO**, and **MANUEL**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state of her residence at Km. 71 San Juan, Alaminos, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 13, 2005 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Alaminos Catholic Church. Burial will be at the Alaminos, Laguna Memorial Park.

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through Me."
John 14:6

JUDGE JOSE P. DE LEON

(Retired Municipal Trial Court Judge of Marilao, Bulacan)

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on 10 February 2005 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife **LEONORA R. MANANSALA - DE LEON**; brothers **DADING** (†) and **GOYING**; sisters **SALUD** (†), **MENY** and **BENY**; children **JOSE, JR.**, & **MA. THERESA** (†), **MA. ELENA**, **JOSE NOEL** & **JOVI**, **ANGELITO**; grandchildren **MICHAEL** & **JOY**, **FRANCIS** & **AGNES**, **JONATHAN** & **ANNA LYNN**, **ANA**, **KATRINA**, **KARMINA**, **MARIA ANGELICA**, **ANDREW**, **PAULO**, **JEROME** & **RIA**; great grandchildren **TRISHA**, **KATKAT**, **TONTON**, **MIGUEL** & **MAXINE**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc. (Solace I), Araneta Ave., Quezon City and will be transferred to the Sta. Ana Chapel, Barrio Sta. Ana, Bulacan, Bulacan on Saturday, 12 February 2005 at 7:00 a.m.

Interment will be held on Sunday, 13 February 2005, at the Bulacan Catholic Cemetery, Bulacan, Bulacan after the 10:00 a.m. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

SPC DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Security Plant Complex, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will sell serviceable/used and unserviceable motor vehicle, boiler, check printing equipment, computers (Bidder must be an accredited E-Waste Handler), electrical and metal scrap items thru sealed bids which must be received by the SPC Disposal Committee not later than 10:00 a.m. on 21 February 2005 at Room 504, 5th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested parties may inspect the said items during regular working days from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. at the BSP Security Plant Complex before 21 February 2005.

Auction forms and other information may be obtained from the SPC Disposal Committee's Executive Officer, Ms. Rouena L. Rosal, at Room 405, 4th Floor, Building A, BSP Security Plant Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. No. 920-2003.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO B. ASIDDAO
Chairman

(PDI - February 12, 2005)

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NOTICE OF CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE PASIG RIVER FERRY SERVICE PROJECT

Notice is hereby given to all interested parties that the Pasig River Ferry Project will hold a consultative meeting on March 1, 2005, Tuesday at 2:00 P.M. to be held at the Manila City Conference Room of the Metro Manila Development Authority, 2F, MMDA Building, EDSA corner Orense St., Guadalupe, Makati City.

For inquiries, please call Mr. Michael Acosta / Ms. Amelita Gamay at Telefax Nos. 926-5233 / 926-5234.

(Sgd.) BINGLE GUTIERREZ
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(PDI - February 12 & 14, 2005)

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BUSINESS

US trade deficit hit record for 2004

WASHINGTON—The US trade deficit narrowed in December to $56.4 billion, but hit an annual record of $617.7 billion in 2004, officials said Thursday, highlighting an imbalance that worries many experts.

The record deficit in trade of goods and services for 2004 resulted from the growing consumer appetite for imports, along with surging oil prices.

The narrowing of the December trade deficit, a drop of 4.9 percent from November, was in line with the consensus forecast of Wall Street economists, who were expecting a deficit of $57 billion.

As expected, the Commerce Department lowered its estimate of the November trade gap to $59.3 billion from the initial estimate of $60.3 billion after Canada announced that a glitch in its data collection led to an underestimate of imports from the United States in the month.

Exports of goods and services rose 3.2 percent to a record $100.2 billion. This is the largest monthly increase in exports since July 2004.

Imports meanwhile edged up 0.1 percent to $156.6 billion, due to a moderation in crude oil prices and a small dip in consumer goods imports.

For all of 2004, the US recorded a record trade deficit of $617.7 billion, or 5.3 percent of gross domestic product. This compares with a deficit of $496.5 billion, or 4.5 percent of GDP, in 2003.

The US trade gap with China hit a record $162 billion in 2004, up 30.6 percent from 2003. The deficit narrowed slightly in December to $14.2 billion from $16.6 billion in November.

For all of 2004, the US set record trade deficits with four countries: Canada, Mexico, China and Japan.

It also set record annual deficits with the European Union and South and Central America.

The United States imported a record 3.8 billion barrels of crude oil in 2004.

The latest report highlighted what economists called a perilous imbalance for the global economy, with America consuming too much from the rest of the world.

"The much-needed (and talked about) reduction in global imbalances is not happening," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at Global Insight, who argued that the dollar may have to fall further to correct the imbalance.

"On the contrary, these imbalances are getting worse. US domestic demand growth remains strong, while growth in other key economies (especially Japan and the Eurozone) has faltered. It is tempting, for some, to blame US 'profligacy' as the root cause of this predicament. But the growing US current account deficit and the corresponding rise in surpluses elsewhere are global problems, which have global roots and thus require global solutions."

Dean Baker at the left-leaning Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington said the imbalance poses threats to economic stability.

"The current deficit levels cannot be sustained for long. The net foreign indebtedness of the United States is currently in excess of $3 trillion," he said.

"If the trade deficit were to remain constant as a share of GDP at its current level, the net foreign indebtedness of the United States would exceed the total value of the stock market in approximately a decade. It is not plausible that foreign investors would be willing to assume such a large stake in US assets."

AFP

US lost $13.4B to piracy in 2004, study says

WASHINGTON—US copyright industries lost at least $13.4 billion to piracy in 2004, not counting illegal Internet copies, a business organization said Thursday.

The International Intellectual Property Alliance said American industries suffered the lion's share of the estimated $25 billion to $30 billion in global losses from illegal copies of films, software, video games and other copyright industries.

The IIPA traced the problems to poor enforcement in 67 countries and said it was urging US authorities to place 42 of those on "an appropriate" list for review and possible trade sanctions.

The IIPA report will be sent to the US Trade Representative's office (USTR), which each year lists countries failing to provide adequate protection of copyrights.

The group, which includes the Motion Picture Association of America and organizations representing the music, book and software industries, said Russia, Pakistan and Ukraine are three major offenders for which action should be taken by Washington.

It called for consultations with China at the World Trade Organization and a special review of the growing piracy problem from that country.

IIPA singled out Russia as a priority and said Washington should immediately suspend special trade privileges granted to the country.

IIPA said Russia has failed to crack down on "some of the most open and notorious websites selling unauthorized materials in the world."

The organization said Pakistan should be added to the list of worst offenders along with Ukraine, the only country cited by USTR for sanctions last year.

Both countries are believed to be major sources of illegal copies of optical disks including DVDs and CDs, with Pakistan also cited for book piracy, IIPA said.

The group called for 15 countries, including China, to be placed on a "priority watch list," and urged a special review of Chinese enforcement by July 31.

A report last year by the USTR cited 52 countries among 85 surveyed for shortcomings in protection of intellectual property.

AFP

Oil firms at $47/barrel

SINGAPORE—Oil prices held firm at around $47 a barrel on Friday, bolstered by a tightening outlook for market fundamentals and sliding US temperatures.

US oil dipped 11 cents to $46.99 a barrel by midday in Asian trade, holding on to most of a 3.6 percent rally the previous day.

Over the preceding two weeks, prices had tumbled from nearly $50 to dip below $45 for the first time in a month.

But revised forecasts for weaker non-Opec global oil production and stronger demand this year helped turn the market's tide on Thursday, assuaging worries about a potential glut developing during the seasonally weak second quarter.

"A material cut in January Opec production and disappointing growth from non-Opec producers have thrown cold water on many of the market's concerns about near-term oversupply," Merrill Lynch said in a report.

In its monthly report, the International Energy Agency, which advises industrialized nations on energy policy, cut its forecast for non-Opec oil supply growth this year, revised upward estimates of demand and predicted a sharp fall in stocks.

Disappointing supply growth, particularly from number two producer Russia, has been compounded by the pace of incremental consumption, which last year grew at the fastest rate in a generation to fuel a 34-percent price rally.

Forecasts that winter in the US Northeast might not end as mildly as expected gave renewed strength to heating oil prices, which had fallen nearly 14 percent in the two weeks to last Monday.

Private weather forecaster EarthSat said on Thursday the US winter would be colder from now through March, in contrast to the National Weather Service, which last month called for a warmer-than-normal late winter.

Temperatures next week in the Northeast, which consumes the bulk of oil demand in the world's biggest energy user, should be near to below normal, forecasters Meteorlogix said.

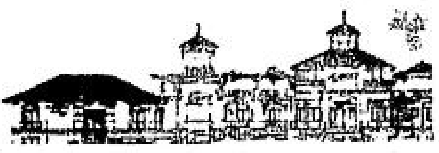
While winter fuel stockpiles in the United States are still running below year-ago levels, crude and gasoline inventories are in surplus to 12 months ago, tempering any concerns about a supply squeeze extending into the summer.

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries have also indicated they are likely to keep production steady until at least the cartel's next meeting on March 16, putting on ice fears of potential snap tightening measures in the meantime.

Reuters

PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**



Female architect transforms library into art museum

A GALLERY of Chinese Buddhist art

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

SAN FRANCISCO—Considered by a New York Times critic as "the most important female architect since the beginning of time," 75-year-old Gae Aulenti of Milan, Italy, shows why she's worth this superlative with her works involving ordinary establishments converted into unique works of art.

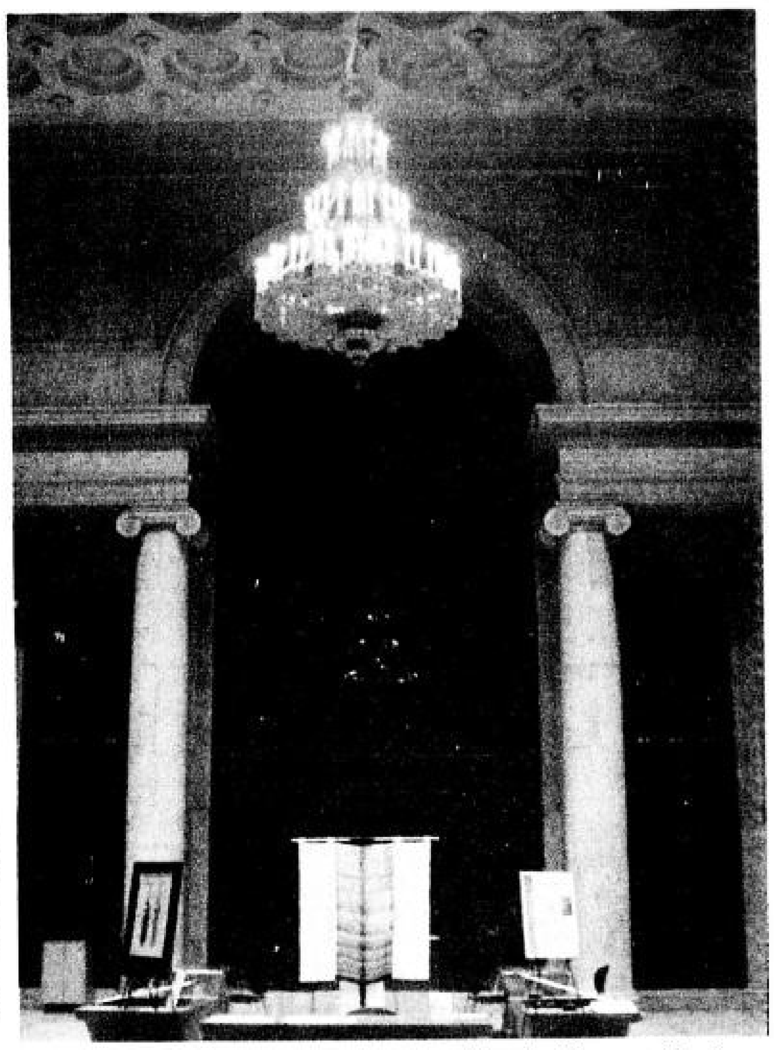
Aulenti has converted an old library here in San Francisco into an art museum—the Asian Art Museum at the corner of Larkin and Fulton Streets. Previous to that, she turned a drab train station in Paris into the Mursee d Orsay, using all of six years from 1980 to 1986 to complete the task.

Transformation of building

Books about her and her works can be found in the souvenir shop of the library turned museum. Even museum guide Sylvia Stress, who accompanied this writer inside the building, couldn't stop admiring Aulenti's transformation of the building.

Working around specific parameters—she was required to retain and preserve the center and

FEMALE/ B2-2



A GRAND hall called the "Delivery Room" by the library staff and now known as Samsung Hall on the second floor. The hall measures about 60 feet square with 40-foot ceilings. The floor is covered with travertine pavers.

Mirrors

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

MIRRORS, for us, are merely objects on which we see our beloved reflections. For some feng shui practitioners, however, they play a more important role. Mirrors, in feng shui theory, are believed to reflect strong energy and, therefore, can be both helpful and harmful.

Feng shui practitioners and authors Zaihong Shen and Katina Z. Jones both believe that mirrors can open up a room by reflecting light and creating a sense of space, especially making small cramped rooms seem larger and more appealing.

FENG SHUI

Shen is quick to point out that though mirrors do not possess definite powers but can reflect a room's negative or positive chi (energy) which, in turn, makes the energy more powerful.

Homeowners should take careful consideration where to place mirrors so that not only light but also favorable energy are reflected in the right direction. Shen strongly suggests avoiding spots where negative energy can be reflected. A mirror facing the front door or bathroom door is discouraged. When facing the front door, it can send the good energy away before it can even have the chance to enter the house or absorb and reflect the negative energy into the home.

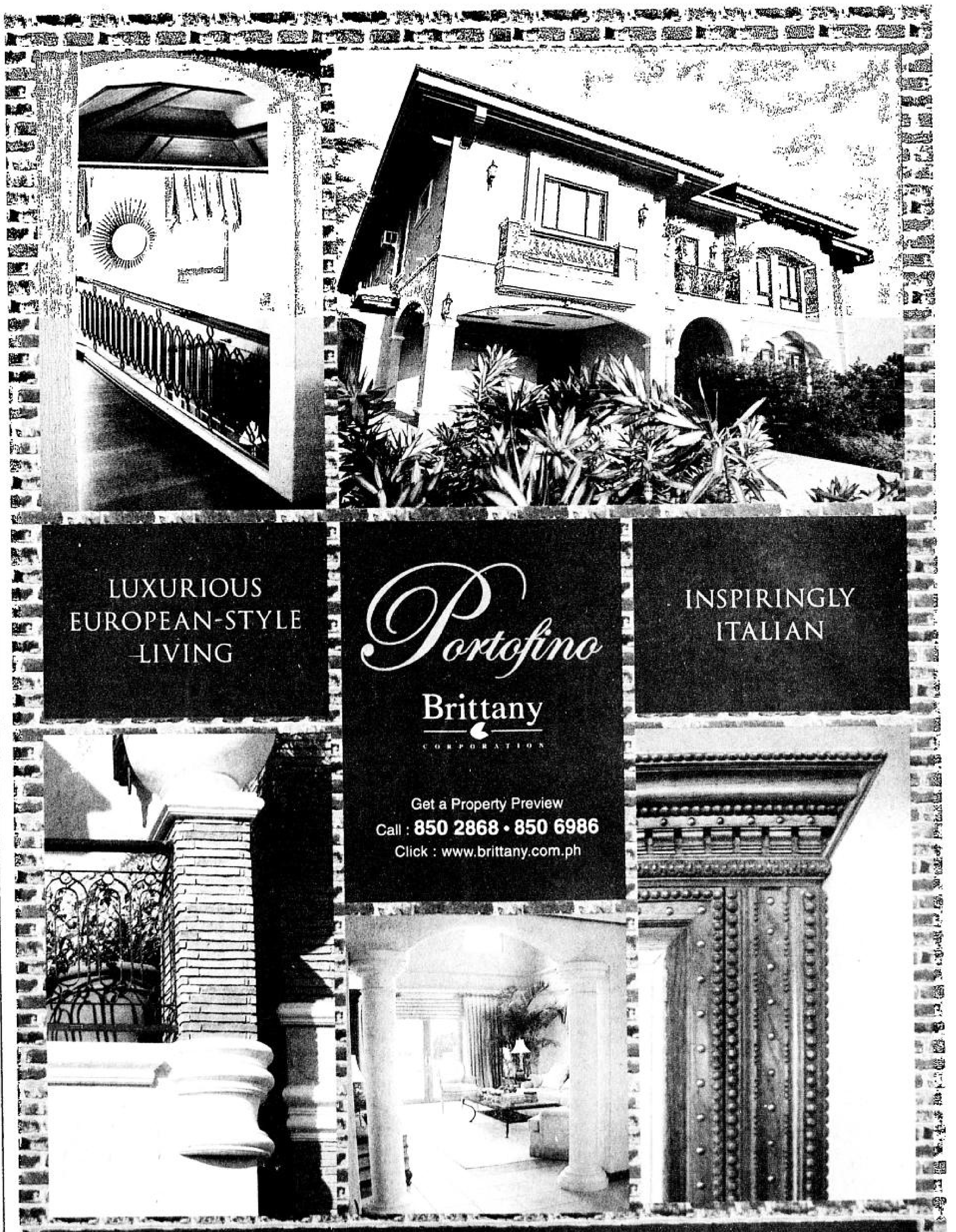
Size of mirror

In feng shui theory, the size of the object is proportionate to its effects on the room. A small mirror, therefore, is less able to reflect energy than a large one. The glass' clarity also affects the mirror's power of reflection. A mirror with clear, unpatterned glass is more effective in reflecting positive or negative chi than a mirror that is frosted, patterned or made of dark glass.

Jones advises keeping mirrors away

MIRRORS/ B2-2

MIRRORS are thought to reflect positive and negative chi which can make the energy more powerful.



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Creating an impression in Ayala South community

By Charles E. Buban

THE MODEL units will set the tone for the whole Verdana Homes Mamplasan development.

WHILE DRAWING up the plans for Verdana Homes Mamplasan project in Laguna, its developer, Community Innovations Inc., didn't need to look elsewhere for ideas.

"Since our team is composed mostly of young urban achievers, the market segment we have targeted for the project, we asked ourselves what characteristics would we want our ideal community to have," recalls CII project development head Jonathan Umali.

The result of this brainstorming turned out to be what is now the 35-hectare property of Verdana Homes Mamplasan.

"What we have created here is a meticulously planned community that no other housing development in this category can compare, in terms of features and facilities, design, and most importantly location," declares Umali.

Central Park

At the heart of this development is a two-hectare Central Park that boasts of multifunction halls, separate swimming pools for adults and children, biking and jogging trails, basketball and badminton courts, open fields and leisure areas with picnic grounds, strolling paths, park benches and pocket parks traversed by a clear, natural water feature.

"The idea here is to create an area that could hold several events simultaneously," explains Umali.

To do this, Ayala Land Inc. project architect and urban planner Gilbert Berba divided the Central Park into three zones: clubhouse zone (lap pool, children's pool); kid's zone (open play field, skating/biking rink); and sports/active zone (basketball court, covered badminton hall, jogging trail).

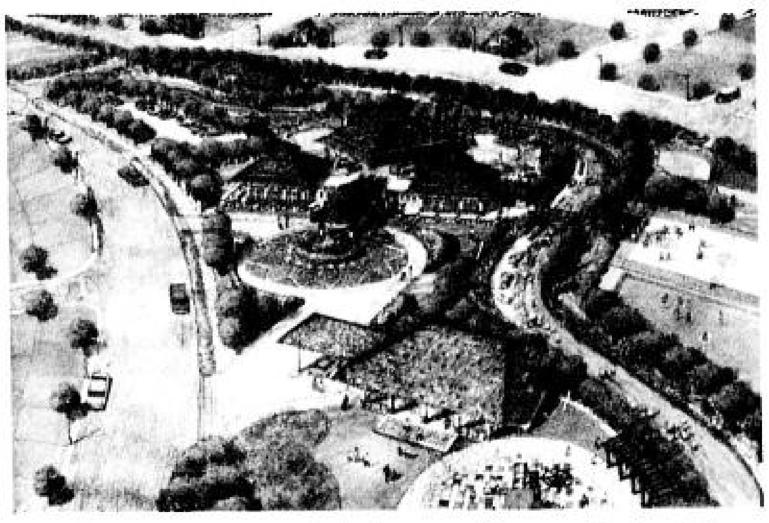
"When one group of homeowners is having an event, another group should be able to hold its own affair in another area of the Central Park," explains Berba.

House and lot package

On Feb. 19, CII will formally announce the availability of 46 house and lot units (for the first phase) that will be strategically located around the Central Park.

Says Berba: "Last year, we just offered lots only packages. This time, we are creating the overall character of the property by offering six model houses that will be strategically located at the core of the development."

The six model units, ranging from P4.5 million to P7 million, and with a lot area ranging from 127 to 225 square meters, will carry the Asian Balinese theme that is also the overall design concept of the Central Park.


INSPIRED by the exotic Asian Balinese architecture, the Central Park is a sanctuary of world-class amenities.

Blending with nature

The units, which will be built by the Makati Development Corp., will be well ventilated with high-pitched tile roofing and will extensively use wooden colors on doors, window frames, porch and balcony railings.

"One very strong character of Asian-Balinese design is its being attached to nature. The choices of color itself would be something that blends into the environment: shades of brown, yellow, green and other earth colors," explains Berba.

Water features will also be incorporated in the design of the houses.

"These contemporary water features including gardens, open-to-the-air bathrooms, numerous cascades, fountains and springs, modernist pool capes, lily and lotus pond, will serve as a natural source of nourishment for the garden and soul alike," reveals Berba.

Important

The success of Verdana Homes Mamplasan is important for CII.

Being located right after Mamplasan exit of the South Luzon Expressway, the development lies at the mouth of the 2,000-hectare Ayala South, a future and primary growth area in the Calabarzon.

Says Berba, "Verdana Homes Mamplasan is not just another isolated development. As we complete this community, we are creating an initial impression to the overall image of the Ayala South."

And that is one assurance that this latest endeavor of CII will be something its future residents will be proud of.

In the mood for love

INTO SPACE

Pinky Cruz

"Thou art to me a delicious torment."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson

IT IS the red-letter time of the year once again when the love-struck (or lovesick, as the case may be) lets loose. To think that this half-Christian, half-pagan tradition devoted to Eros applies to all might be too sweeping a generalization. Because I know of some who would rather take in a valium to sleep it off. But I am an incurable romantic. So pardon my bias for the world's most amorous date.

Red for my sweet

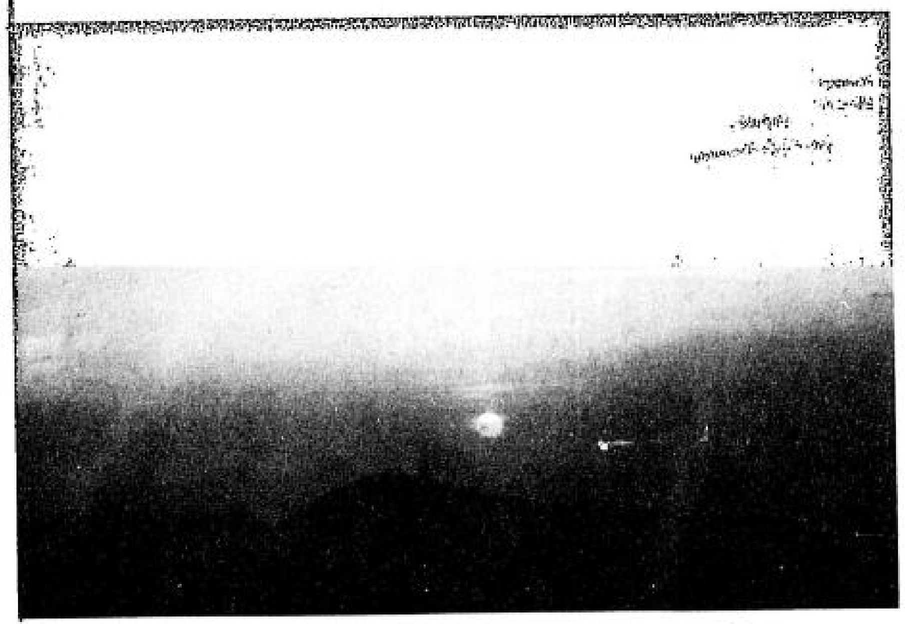
Sadly, though, celebrating this day of hearts has been the biggest cliche of all time, with only the rose vendors and chocolate stores making a killing out of it.

Is there no other way to pay the highest respect for the one we dearly love aside from a box of chocolates and a long-stemmed rose? Is there no hope for a man and a woman to see eye to eye other than on a day like this? It's funny but I just fell off my chair when I chanced upon Woody Allen's remark on love: "The last time I was inside a woman was when I went to the Statue of Liberty."

How do I love thee?

For cynics, outlasting a relationship is a formidable challenge. The additional burden (and cost!) of saying "I love you" not just with a kiss but in the grander fashion can be so taxing for men. I say men, poor men, for we are yet to get over this traditional gender issue on giving and receiving love.

For us who see love as one single reason to live and hope, how can we express it in the most creative fashion? Let me count the ways.


IS it fog or smog? Well, it doesn't hurt the purse much to see one of the most picturesque sunsets in Manila from an Antipolo outdoor resto. Romance is in the air up there.

A PERFECT getaway. A trip to the countryside as far away from the city can be the most memorable valentine date of all! Shown here is a lighthouse view in Batanes.

1. Say it with a gift.

You might want to go for the classic Valentine gifts for women: bouquet of flowers, perfume, jewelry or a box of truffles. And the vintage items for men: a fine watch, cologne, or just the sweet "I love you" will do. Just be sure to give it in the most original, out-of-the-box "package." And don't forget to personalize it with a love poem or a heartfelt card that says it in only your words can.

2. Make a romantic getaway.

I know of a couple who would take turns planning their anniversary and valentine getaways, making sure the other party gets the surprise of his/her life. My tip is to research ahead, book in advance and go to a destination that both of you haven't explored yet. A B&B getaway can be an adventure, provided you try the least commercial hidden attraction the place offers. (The innkeeper may be a reliable source!) Remember, take time to relax, as business and pleasure sometimes make strange bedfellows.

3. Create the mood yourself.

If a getaway seems to be too much of a luxury, then attempt the most original within your reach. Having your home as the venue can be a blessing in disguise. With good lights (from old Christmas lights to your table lamp with a fabric lain over it!), a grand attempt of a table setting, a good wine and an entrée that is easy to prepare but special enough. Create a spirit of fun by decorating the room with a special theme like balloons or roses in groupings or aromatic scents and yes, nothing beats the candlelight to set the stage. And oh, do not forget the music. It is a must!

4. Shun the crowd.

You don't want to be just one of the numbers, do you? So if you can't entirely skip going with the rest to dine out for this is the most convenient, at least go for the least crowded. The worse that could happen is for both of you to get stuck in queue waiting for your turn to order, and worse still, you are too self-conscious to even engage on a heart-to-heart conversation because of the nearness of the other couples. An outdoor restaurant with some soft live music can do the trick!

5. Love me tender

I think it was actress Melanie Griffith who said, "There is a place you can touch a woman that will drive her crazy. Her heart." I guess, long after the Valentine, it is the everyday affair that matters most. So let us not get caught up in one day and lose the day by day display of that sweet tenderness. It is always the consistent who gets the nod big time!

And lastly, it is not always true that we have to celebrate it in pairs. We can feast with friends who journey with us in single blessedness or with our family who's sometimes even more intimate than our partners can ever be to us. Now, I do not know who quipped this but, he sure had a point, too: "Love is grand but divorce is a hundred grand." So, whoever said love is not without a cost?

(You may visit my website at creativepost.com.ph.)

Workshop pushes for social housing projects

THE SECOND Creba Social Housing Foundation Inc. workshop on the initial "Sandaang Bahay sa bawat Munisipyo" program for local government units is set on Feb. 25 for Regions 1, 2 and 3 to push for social housing projects in local communities.

Workshop director Avelina P. Acuña said details of the "10 Easy Steps" of the CSHFI housing project manual of operations will be discussed with governors, mayors and local development officials during the 9 a.m.-4 p.m. workshop at the Leisure Coast Resort in Dagupan City, Pangasinan.

Region 1 is composed of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union and Pangasinan, while Region 2, Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino; and Region 3, Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

Call for support

Local Government Secretary Angelo T. Reyes has been urging governors and mayors and their development executives to support and join the workshops so they can speed up housing projects for their constituents.

The DILG has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council on LGU socialized housing projects "in support of the 10-point agenda of President Macapagal-Arroyo."

The first workshop was held last month for Regions 4-A and Region 4-B in Makati City. The CSHFI led by president Efren "Choy" Alas and chair Rose C. Base will conduct other workshops for other regions of the country.

Case studies will provide insights on the experiences of some local government units. The overall objective, Acuña said, is to contribute to the reduction of homelessness in the country.

CSHFI is the social arm of Creba, the largest industry organization. Lawyer Manuel M. Serrano is the Creba board chair, while Jaime Cura is the national president.

Mirrors

From page B1

from one another in larger bathrooms because opposing mirrors can block energy. It is also most preferable to have a nice round mirror instead of a square one to keep the flow of energy. However, the edges of a square mirror can be softened by framing it or having the glass cut in the corners.

Symbolizing abundance

As we have mentioned in the past, a mirror in the dining room is beneficial as long as it reflects only the food on the table. This symbolizes abundance and wealth. A mirror in the dining room can also reflect something eye-catching and appealing, such as a good view from outside the house or an attractive piece of furniture or artwork. However, be careful against placing a mirror on the ceiling over the dining table where it can also reflect the diners. In addition, if a mirror reflects what's on your dining table, just make sure that the table is free from clutter.

Powerful instruments

Most of us are yet to see a bedroom without a mirror—be it on a dresser or at the back of the bedroom door or closet. Shen stresses that not all feng shui experts believe that mirrors are powerful instruments though many practitioners think that mirrors should be avoided in couples' rooms.

Mirrors are assumed to reflect aggressive energy into the bedroom which strains a couple's relationship. They are also thought to cause bad relationship luck to a person who is single and unattached, writes Shen.

Feng shui theory also dictates that a mirror should not face a bed nor should a mirror have your reflection while you are in bed. This is unsettling and, according to feng shui consultant Merlina Merton, seeing yourself lying on a bed suggests sickness or death to your subconscious mind. Shen also offers a solution for mirrors in the bedroom: full-length mirrors can simply be placed inside closet doors while other mirrors in the bedroom—like those on the dresser—should be kept small.

* * *

Email fengshui.inquirer@gmail.com.

Female architect transforms ...

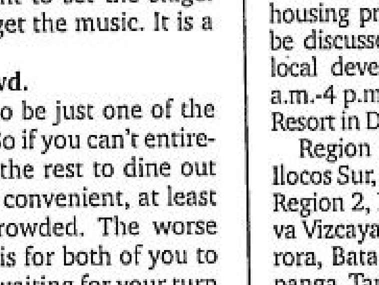
From page B1

the exterior of the building—being able to produce maximum results.

"I actually got to meet her. She's a bright woman, very well respected in what she's able to do," recalls Stress. "She did absolutely a phenomenal engineering job here," Sylvia adds, pointing to an inverted ceiling.

Stress explains that the museum was built on what is called "base isolators," which look like rollers but are actually cylinders on which the support beams are put, virtually allowing the building to "roll" a few feet in any direction. This protects the building from the horizontal motions of strong earthquakes, which this city is constantly under threat of.

The Asian Art Museum of San Francisco was the former San Francisco Public Library built in 1917, and it was known as such for 78 years. In 1995, the library moved across the street, and the emptied building was turned over to the Asian Art Museum.


A PENSIVE Aulenti

CHRONICLE PHOTO BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE

After Aulenti's "makeover," over 2,400 works of art have made its permanent home here. The museum's collection spans over 6,000 years of human artistry from the diverse cultures of Asia.

Transforming the old library into a museum amounted to more than $170 million.

Other works

Aulenti's other important works include Contemporary Art Gallery, Pompidou Center, Paris (1982–1985) Palazzo Grassi, Venice (1985), Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona (1985), Scuderie Papali (Papal Stables) (1999) and the renovation of Pompidou Center, Paris (1999).

In a way, Aulenti's work on the museum itself could be considered one of the major "additions" to the museum's collections—an Italian work of art to house Asian works of art in America.

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Majestic mosque

THE WORLD'S largest mosque is the Shah Faisal Mosque, near Islamabad, Pakistan. It has a total area of 189,700 square meters, with the prayer hall measuring 4,800 square meters.

AMAZING STRUCTURES

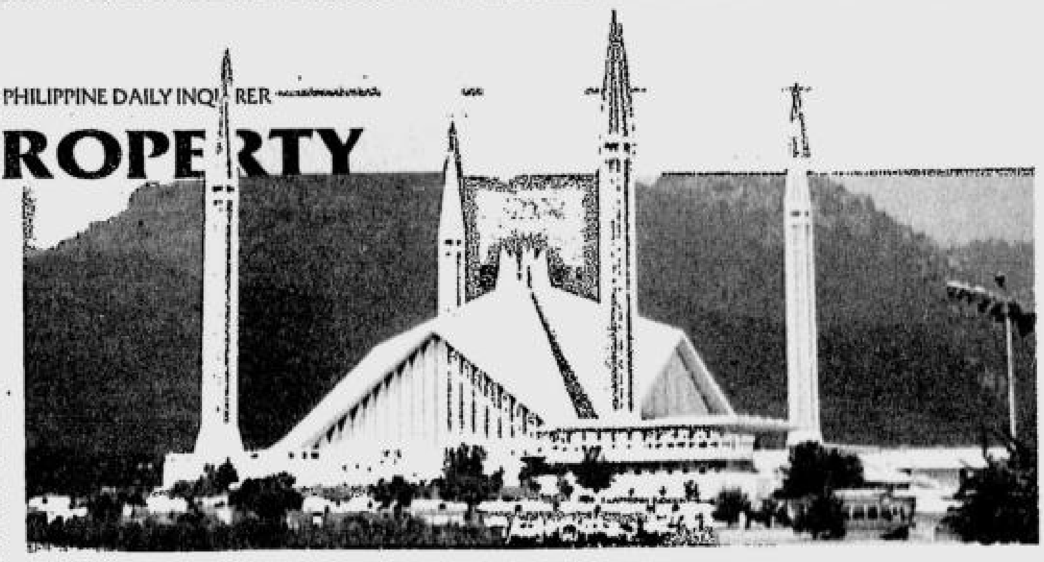
The immense complex houses the Islamic Research Center as well as its own library, museum, lecture hall, café and the offices of the faculty of the Islamic University. It also has a women's gallery—a unique feature for a mosque—which has zebra and white marble from Greece.

Like desert tent

The main prayer hall is an eight-faceted concrete shell with a height of 40 meters and which resembles a desert tent, quite different from the traditional dome which is usually associated with mosques. It is made of white marble and decorated with mosaics and an impressive Turkish-style chandelier.

Four towering pointed minarets measuring 90 meters each flank the mosque. The Qibla Wall inside the main prayer hall is decorated with glazed tiles from Turkey and a golden crescent in the roof. There are also reflection pools which allow for air conditioning by adjusting the water level of the pools.

The colossal structure can accommodate 10,000 worshippers in its main hall, 24,000 in the verandahs, 40,000 in the main courtyard and 30,000 in outbuildings—100,000 Muslims, in all. It was designed by Turkish architect Vadat Dolokay and was named after the late King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, who generously cleared the cost of the mosque, intending it as a gift to the people of Pakistan. *Dianne M. Villafuerte*



THE SHAH Faisal, the Guinness World Records' largest mosque, can accomodate 100,000 worshippers at the same time.

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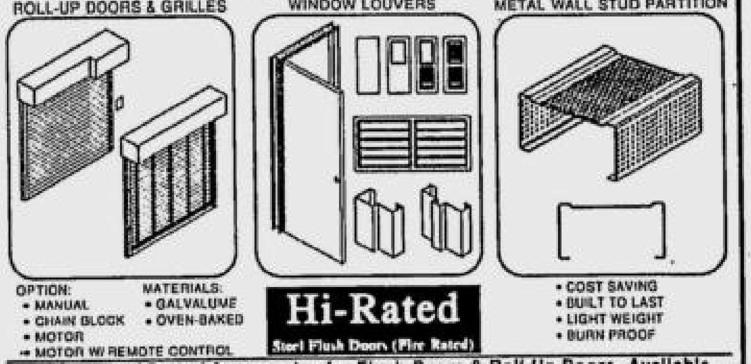

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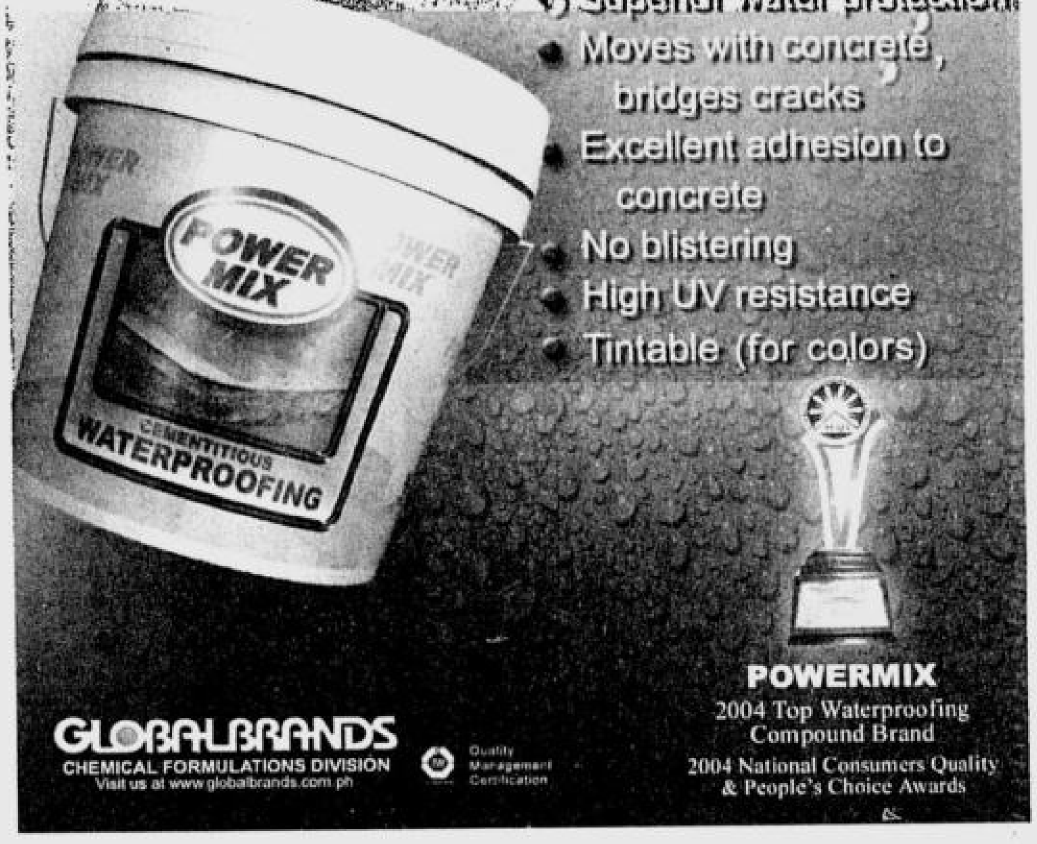

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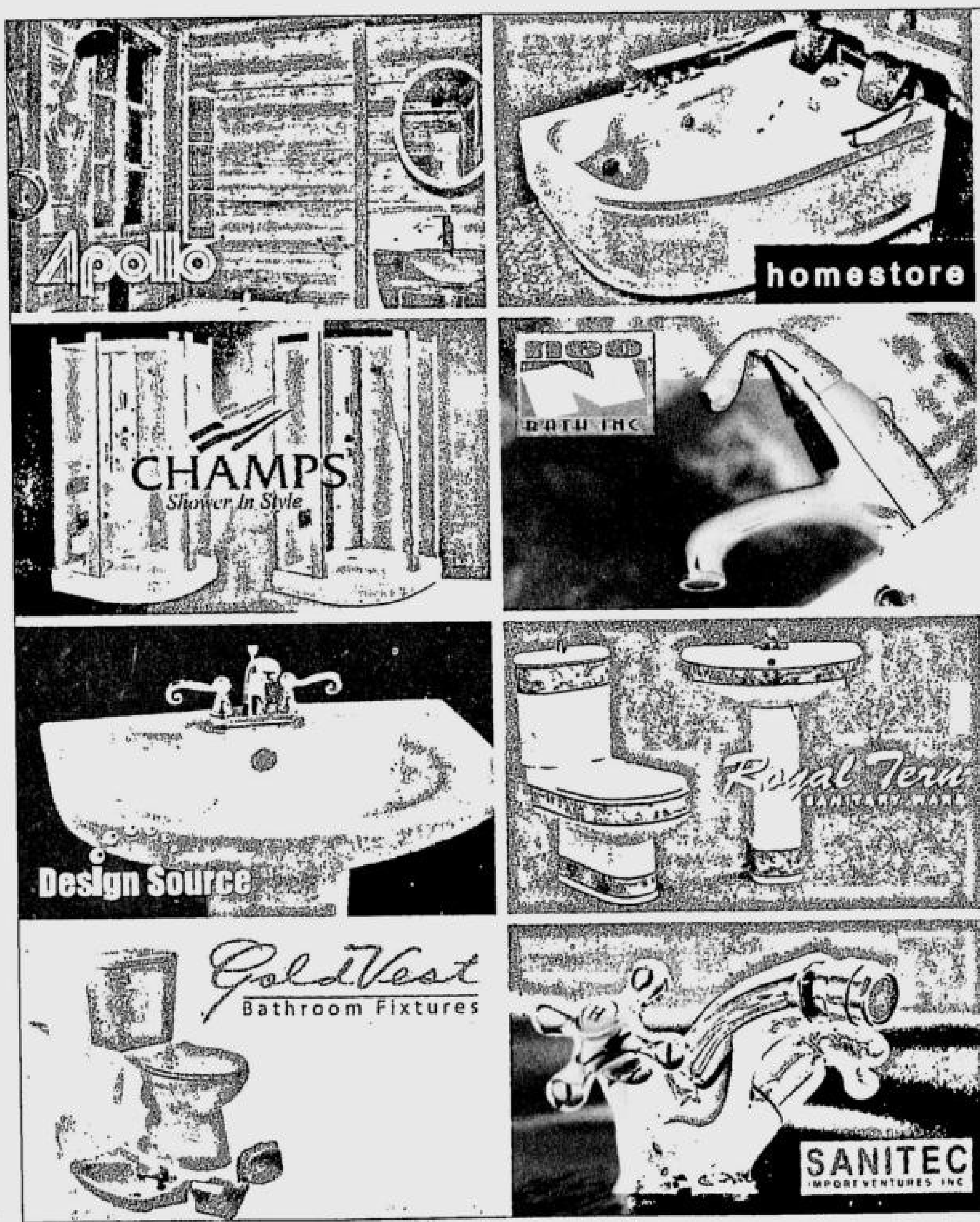

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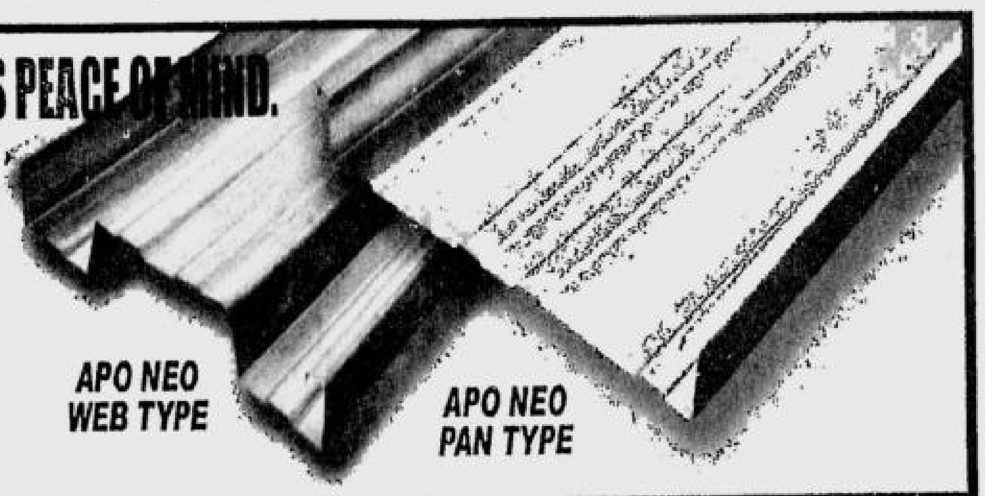

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Urban retail resorts and streetscapes

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

Urban retail resort dev't has attracted everyone

FEBRUARY... The season of hearts... Love in the air. It's dating season once again. Whether you have a romantic date, are in search of one, or merely want to enjoy the company of friends, great ambience, cool weather, relaxing music, and good food would definitely set the mood.

And while the last of the cool breezes are here, take advantage and celebrate in an open, airy setting.

Shop, dine, celebrate!

Filipinos love to shop, to eat and to gather around with friends. This has brought about a new trend in entertainment districts I would call "urban retail resorts." It is also popularly known as "lifestyle centers." These are the new, hip places where people meet, shop, dine, celebrate, relax and generally enjoy. Courtyards, promenades and streetscapes are just some of the architectural elements that comprise this new trend.

Al fresco dining has become so popular that it is now a must for restaurants to have even just a few tables outdoors. Only a few years back, I had a difficult time selling this idea to restaurant owners and developers. Some stuck to the old mall and fully air-conditioned restaurant concept and are now paying the price, not to mention the electricity and building costs.

Benefits for customers

Lifestyle districts capitalize on this. Its open, airy character attracts a particular market composed of a younger Filipino crowd, the trendsetters. These are people who are already earning and are starting to enjoy the fruits of their labor, wanting to unwind at the end of a working day. These are people who spend hours in the gym, toning up their bodies and would want to be seen. These are people displaying their exotic cars, or big bike enthusiasts parading their babies. They would gather and discuss the things they love and have in common. This has become the place to see and be seen.

Open-air areas allow smokers a place to light up without prejudice. Outside, everyone is allowed, even in shorts and flip-flops. Sometimes, even pets are welcome. Big, bold groups are more easily tolerated. Concerts are even held outdoors on special occasions. Such events add to the already festive atmosphere.

For restaurant owners and developers, this movement translates to lower building expenditure. Restaurant owners and developers are not required to fully enclose areas like they used to.

They can have more seating areas, but save on construction and maintenance costs. This will also allow them a worry-free space for smokers. There's less area to air condition, resulting in lower power costs. This ultimately means lower investment and operating expenses.

Lifestyle centers

Urban retail resort development has attracted everyone from all walks of society. The posh Greenbelt 3 in Makati took this concept to new heights by creating multilevel outdoor areas ideal for leisure, dining and shopping.

The presence of lushly landscaped courtyards and extensive water features softens the architectural elements and completes the ambiance. The Market Market! in the Global City in Taguig offers a different take on the same concept. A wide semi-enclosed area was created to cater to an assortment of activities, offering shopping and dining at reasonable prices, in a marketplace setting.

The Alabang town center has adapted the cozy "small town" feeling in their palm courts and promenades. Even in the Marikina riverside, this setup has been proven successful. Truly, the trend has shaped both public and private developments in the metropolis. It has been adapted as a contemporary solution, regardless of class.

Expect to see more of these urban retail resorts. It could only get better. Developers are slowly but surely adopting this concept now that they have a better understanding of the Filipino market.

So this Valentine's Day, have fun, go out and stay outdoors!

* * *

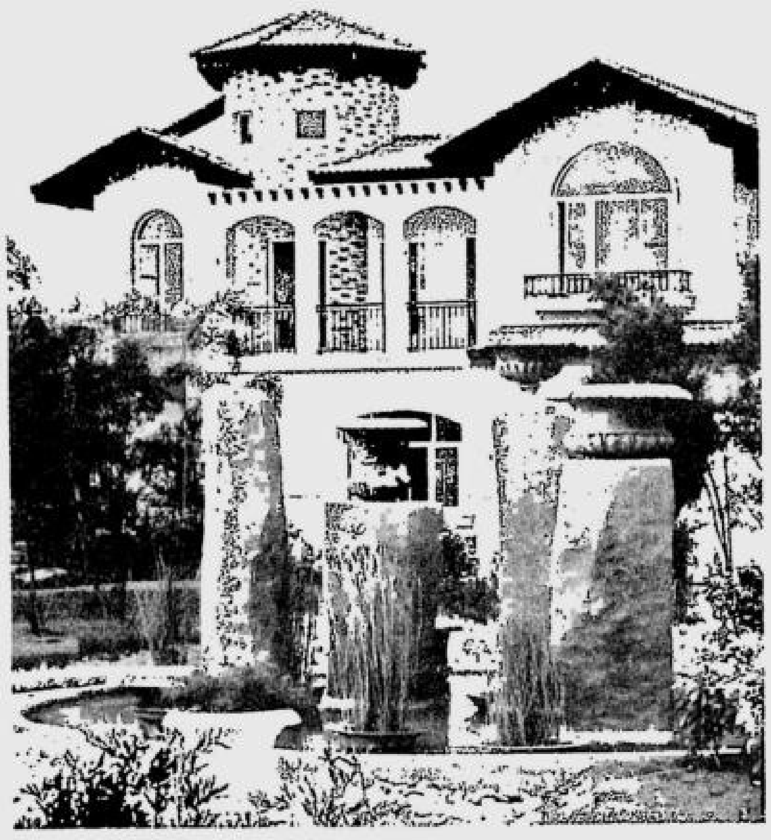
E-mail the author at arkinet@email.com.ph.

IT is now a must for restaurants to have even just a few tables outdoors.

PROMENADERS enjoy Greenbelt's attractions at night.

GREENBELT 3 in Makati created multilevel outdoor areas ideal for leisure, dining and shopping.

Brittany launches courtyard models at Portofino on Feb. 20



REMBRANDT house model

THE FIRST in local design becomes a realized vision as real estate maverick Brittany Corp. unveils the Rembrandt and Raphael model homes at Courtyards of Portofino on Feb. 20.

Known for developing upscale master-planned communities with distinct themes, Brittany brings forth an innovative yet charming rendition of the original Portofino. The lovely seaport town in southern Italy with rolling, hilly terrain and thriving greenery, is the inspiration for Brittany's multiphase development project.

Courtyard homes

Pinning on the success of Portofino Heights, where all lots sold out in less than a year, Brittany now offers a limited number of Courtyard residences at Portofino.

The Courtyard homes are a one-of-a-kind application of the "courtyard-within-a-courtyard" concept, an ingenious design exclusive to Brittany. The concept features all models having its own courtyard, while being part of a cluster of homes configured within a bigger, central, landscaped courtyard embellished with a majestic fountain and stone sculptures. The open space of each home's courtyard freely admits daylight while providing natural cooling. Brittany's courtyard concept is about bringing the outdoors indoors.

New model homes

Rembrandt, the largest of the four Courtyard models offered, with 260-square-meter floor area on 334-sq-m lot echoes the art and romance of its Italian origins. A porch welcomes future residents upon entering the abode, while a lovely courtyard finds its place in the center providing access to the ground floor living areas.

Raphael, the second of the new model homes to be launched, with 249-sq-m floor area on 306-sq-m lot, has a beckoning porch, with the courtyard positioned at one side, opening to a lush garden. The Raphael features a third level which can be converted to a family room or additional bedroom for staying guests.

The Courtyard model homes also boast of a balcony and a two-car garage with the convenience of an automated door. Both enclaves also have an auxiliary kitchen, utility area and maid's quarters with its own toilet and bath.

Designs

Named after European artists, both the Rembrandt and Raphael appeal to families with sophisticated tastes and have features fitting their lifestyles. Design duo Cynthia and Ivy of Atelier Almario adorn its interiors with the quaint magnificence of Italy.

Sun-drenched hues, stone claddings and copulas capture the warmth of Italy during a relaxing afternoon. The ingenious architecture and stylish designs of Recio+Casas bring home Italy's timeless splendor.

Heightening the tranquil ambiance are classic gardens with thriving landscaping, adorned with fountains, benches and cobblestone paths. The collaborated landscaping artistry of Benny Velasco of FN Velasco and Jojo Lazaro of Ground Works aptly reflects man's existence with art and nature.

2 other models

Other models available at Courtyards of Portofino are Cezanne, with a floor area of 193 sq m; and Monet, with bigger space, has a floor area of 233 sq m. The house includes a casitas on the ground floor and provisions for a family area on the third floor.

Located just a few minutes away from the Alabang business center, on the Las Piñas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite Link Road, you can visit Courtyards of Portofino to witness the unveiling of its new models on Feb. 20.

Courtyard homes at Portofino range from P9 to P15 million for home and lot packages. Previews of the Courtyard models may be arranged by calling tel. 850-6986, 850-2868 and 850-3084.

Country club-like amenities at Serendra

AT SERENDRA, Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) and Community Innovations Inc.'s (CII) latest and most innovative low-density residential condominium development in Bonifacio Global City, you don't have to buy country club shares to enjoy country club amenities.

"At Serendra, the amenities are one of the main highlights of the development," observed Abelardo M. Tolentino Jr., president and CEO of RMJM, architect of Serendra District 2. "It is where people can do their physical and social activities," he added.

Other developments

"There are other developments that have similar amenities, but the highlight here is in the design of the amenities," said Leandro Y. Locsin Jr., of Leandro V. Locsin Partners, interior designer for amenity and common areas of Serendra District 1. Unlike other condominium residences, Serendra houses several amenity areas. Some are found in the main building on the rear of the Promenade facing the garden, while others are in the clubhouse.

In the main building, you have the exercise room overlooking the gardens, a flexible space for yoga and other such activities, and additional function rooms. Here, fitness buffs and busy executives can enjoy the convenience of doing their daily exercise without having to go far away from home. On the ground level is the lounge area where neighbors can meet, chat over coffee drinks and exchange the latest news tidbits. A large function room is also available for parents or teenagers to organize parties, meet guests or hold meetings. There is also a terrace that looks out into the garden area so parents or guardians can conveniently watch over their kids in the playground.

There is a main clubhouse within the garden facing the exercise and function rooms. This clubhouse is a unique structure because, from the outside, it appears to be a one-story building. Tired moms will welcome the spa where they can relax and rejuvenate themselves, as this offers a complete range of services, including a massage area.

There are still two fully air-conditioned levels underground. Residents can go down to the next level, the mezzanine level, where they'll find a game room for billiards and darts. It's the perfect place for a good family bonding. The lowest level is where you will find the basketball court and two badminton courts which, if needed, can also be converted into a larger reception area.

Residents can invite their friends over for a game of badminton on weekends or after work. And teenagers do not have to go far from home to have their recreation and exercise. Since these levels are underground, they are expected to stay relatively cool, with adequate mechanical ventilation.

Amenities center

"One of the major reasons these amenities were placed underground was we did not want the clubhouse to obstruct the views to the garden," Locsin explained.

"The clubhouse is basically just one story above ground. The design is reminiscent of a lantern on top of the clubhouse, as these mirror the lantern units in the residential areas. With illumination, it looks very elegant in the evening."

"What is referred to as the clubhouse is actually an amenities center," Locsin observed. "The function rooms that you normally associate with a clubhouse such as lounges or social halls are actually contained within the main building."

The clubhouse houses the spa, the locker rooms, the game rooms, the courts, and the areas around the pool. To those who want to have a tan, the deck is conducive to sunbathing. The swimming pool was also designed to be a lap pool to facilitate exercise for health and fitness. However, there is also a shallower portion for children.

Dads can spend their weekends teaching their kids how to swim.

On another part of the development is another main clubhouse with a veranda—an open sitting area where food can be served. This clubhouse has a lobby that connects the retail section to the veranda. Here, people can meet or rest after a day of shopping at the Promenade. While walking within the Promenade, people can enjoy the relaxing view and the cool shade from the long strip of full-sized, deeply rooted hardwood trees, similar to the ones found in the exclusive villages in Makati.

Model units are available for viewing at the Sales Pavilion, 26th St., Bonifacio Global City, every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Seminar on selling property to Fil-Ams

THE SOCIETY of US-Philippine Real Estate Marketing Network (Supremnet), a US-based company, will conduct a lecture-workshop on how to market Philippine property to the 3 million Filipino Americans.

The seminar will be held at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati City on Feb. 18 from 1 to 6 p.m.

Titled "Make Millions Selling to Filipino Americans," the seminar will focus on how to effectively sell to Filipino Americans using a system perfected by Supremnet and the "bird-dogs (a term used for US-based real estate brokers and agents).

Filipino-American Ed T. Pascual, a licensed California and Nevada real estate broker, will share the secrets for successfully selling to a diverse market and the strategies for opening up opportunities for those who develop, own, appraise, lend, buy or sell local property. Real estate developers and marketing professionals will learn how they can take advantage of the huge potential of the Filipino-American market in the United States.

The five-hour lecture workshop will also focus on the demographics and pertinent economic and marketing information discussed in Pascual's book "How to Profit from the $27-billion Filipino-American market," now on sale at all National Bookstore outlets and major US bookstores.

Pascual will also discuss the various financing schemes preferred by Filipino-American investors as well as the many tax breaks granted by the US government to their citizens who in investment and tourism hubs like the Philippines.

There will be a business matching session where the participants will be allowed to discuss their projects, franchises, small and medium enterprises and other business opportunities with Pascual and his affiliate professionals for eventual marketing to Filipino Americans. Limited slots are available. For inquiries, call 812-4872 and 812-3262.

PHILIPPINE DA[illegible]Y IN[illegible]IRE[illegible]

Super

C1

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Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Super! Countdown
2 [illegible] til [illegible]

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

luv'd up

Win a date with Angel Locsin! page E3

Kapamilya strikes back? page G1

Raya Mananquil faces her fears page F2

MTV Asia Aid for tsunami victims page H1

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography by JAY YAO

HAPPY HAPPY
flowers
fresh
VALENTINE AT
BUY TAKE
MARKET! MARKET!
NEMA

Valentine's Day is in full bloom at Market! Market! Whether you're a swinging single, a happy couple or a fun group date, you are sure to come across the best finds in shopping, dining and entertainment.

Catch these special events:

February 13	February 14	February 7-21
Endless Laugh 5pm, Activity Center featuring: Candy Pangilinan, Nanette Inventor, Carlo Orosa and Pam G Going Bulilit Mall Show 4pm, Playzone	Happy! Happy!, Starstruck Lovestruck 7pm, Activity Center GMA 7 Starstruck Final Four hosted by Jolina Magdangal & Dingdong Dantes	Happy! Happy! Together at the Cinemas Get a free movie ticket for groups of 3, 5 and 7!

MARKET! MARKET!
Bonifacio Global City
The fun is in the finds

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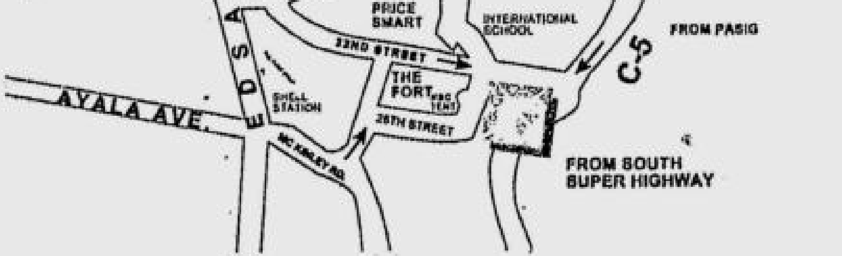
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Dating in vain

These are the players of today's dating game. Scary thought.

Text by Pam Pastor
Original artwork by Jason Moss

Shallow gal

Every time she meets someone new, she whips out her checklist. It's a long one.

The right face, the right body, the right school, the right address, the right name, the right race, the right diction, the right friends, the right car—it's an endless series of rights.

No one has passed the checklist test yet. So while her friends are building their future with their imperfect but perfectly lovable boyfriends, she sits and waits, sits and waits.

Ms Superficial will be waiting forever. Too bad the checklist doesn't keep her warm.

* * *

The fault finder

His expertise is finding flaws. Like Chandler in Friends or Jason Alexander in Shallow Hall, the most inane things can change his mind about potential relationships.

Enter the But Guy.

As in, "She's a great woman but..."

Her head's too big. She's got ugly feet. She pronounces it as "supposebly." She bites her nails. She's constantly looking for her keys.

When he looks in the mirror, does he see perfection?

* * *

The cyberstalker

Google is his best friend.

After your first date, he searches for your name. He traces your Alumni.net account. Then he reads all your blog archives and all your friends' blog archives. He logs on to Friendster, checks out your account and all your friends' accounts. He reads your old slambook entries, even your messages in your favorite online forum and other people's guestbooks. Then he surprises you with all the little tidbits he's collected about you.

Hello, 117, we have a stalker on the loose.

But this is positive, really.

Because he just likes you. He really, really likes you.

* * *

The commitment-phobe

She's been dating you for six months. And yet she balks when you mention commitment.

Yes to makeout sessions, no to pet names. Yes to sex, no to affection. You're together, you're not together, you're not really sure.

Your friends want to know what's up and you do too.

She doesn't like labels. She doesn't like commitment. Maybe she doesn't like you.

* * *

The relationship junkie

He's the yang to the commitment-phobe's yin.

On the first date, he said, "I love you."

On the second date, he said, "I want you to meet my parents."

On the third date, he starts his sentences with, "When we have kids..."

And you wonder why you ever said yes to date number three.

Run, run as fast as you can.

* * *

The queen of cling

She calls every five minutes. She refuses to go out when she's not dangling from your arm. She throws tantrums when you want to go out with the guys. She has ceased to have a life outside your relationship. When you're not around, her sentences begin with, "My boyfriend..."

She's no longer her own person. She's become your shadow.

And she's never going away.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

Maybelline's lipstick prices made heartwarming

There's one beauty essential we Filipinas can't do without – and that's lipcolor. We love the variety of shades and finishes, but we also want the best quality for the best price. Maybelline gives us exactly that. It offers a wide range of lip colors at surprisingly affordable prices compared to other international brands from light glosses to rich colors, from fun to glamorous styles, Maybelline has it – and you can have it, too!

Having fabulous lips doesn't mean you have to spend a lot on lipstick or just dream away to achieve that LIP FANTASY. You can keep lips kissable with sexy, alluring lip color and finishes at affordable lip-smacking prices ONLY from Maybelline New York!

Check out their bestsellers, along with some luscious –

LipTips

Choose a color that complements the natural shade of your lips and skin. Plums, wines and deep reds flatter a dark skin tone, while light-brown beiges with pink or orange undertones complement a lighter skin tone. Maybelline Watershine 3D offers 8 different shades so you can easily spot the color that suits your skin tone.

Keep colors lighter for daytime and darker for night. Matte and cream finishes offer a subtler daytime look, while a high-gloss finish adds glamour for evening. A sheer, natural-looking color with a little shine also works well for day. With Maybelline, you don't have to spend on two different lipsticks for daytime and evening use. Try using Water Shine lipcolor. A light, single stroke of Water Shine gives you subtle sheer, while 3 to 4 layers will make your lips more dazzling – perfect for glamorous evening parties.

NEW
Water Shine ice
199
MAYBELLINE
NEW YORK

Experiment. Head to your local department store and ask a Maybelline Beauty Adviser to test different shades on your lips. Whenever possible, check in natural light to see how the color really looks with your complexion.

new
water shine
lip color
279
MAYBELLINE

Create your own shade by combining colors. If the shades you find don't completely satisfy you, mix your own color. The easiest way to do this is by applying each color to your lips with a lip brush, then blending with the brush on your lips.

Fruity Jelly
Lip Gloss

You don't have to spend a lot on lipstick to have fabulous-looking lips. Try Maybelline's line of luscious colors at lip-smacking prices!

Choose a color that blends well with your outfit. Soft colors are suited for light-colored, casual wear. So if you're in the mood to be sweet and girly, just top your lips with Maybelline Fruity Jelly lip gloss to get that fresh, gleaming look. Vibrant shades look striking in chic, sophisticated ensembles, so if you're ready to sizzle and dazzle, glam up with Maybelline Water Shine Ice lipcolor. Feel like flashing your funky side? Match your style with Maybelline Forever Metallics lipstick and you'll be oozing with metallic charm.

Opt for a lip liner that is a shade darker than your lipstick and in the same color family. This will make your lips look fuller. Line lips after applying lipstick. That way you won't end up with a dark circle of lip liner after your lipstick has worn off. Check out Maybelline Line 'N Design Lip Liner for only P299 and get that full and pouty lips that will make you oh-so-kissable.

You don't have to spend a lot on lipstick to have fabulous-looking lips. Try Maybelline's line of luscious colors at lip-smacking prices! With Maybelline New York, beauty comes natural because you're born with it.

NEW
forever metallics
P349
MAYBELLINE
NEW YORK

TIPS PICKS

I like Water Shine because the shine is blinding and it feels great on the lips!
Lip Tip: When choosing a color, bite your lips and choose a shade that's close to it.

- Celine Lopez
Fashion Editor

I really like Water Shine Ice in Chilled Lychee. It smells really good, and it has a minty feel on the lips.
Lip Tip: Always moisturize your lips with lip balm before putting on any lipcolor. For young girls, it's better to use lipsticks with lighter shades.

- Ines Bautista
Editor-in-Chief, Candy Magazine

My fave lipstick is the Water Shine Hyper Diamonds line. It's like 2 in 1 – lipstick and gloss. If you put one layer, it acts like a gloss. If two or more, it's lipstick with gloss already.
Lip Tip: Don't be afraid to experiment with colors. That's the good thing about makeup. It's not permanent. If you don't like it, you can erase and change it.

- Barbi Chan
Makeup Artist

Choose your Maybelline Lipstick

- Watershine Hyper Diamonds - Take shine to a new level by emphasizing lips that dazzle like diamonds with new Watershine Hyper Diamonds! Get that diamond-like sparkle and glossy shine while moisturizing your lips.
- Water Shine - Juicy, glossy color in one sleek stick, Water Shine has no sticky feel. Apply once to achieve natural-looking lips for your day look and apply 3 to 4 times for that glamorous evening look.
- Forever Metallics - Make an impact with outrageously vibrant, long-lasting metallic lip finish with Forever Metallics, an innovative mix of high shine pearlescent spheres add amazing, luminous sheen to your lips. Forget the flashy jewelry or accessories, Forever Metallics is the only thing you need if you want to flash your funky side!
- Fruity Jelly - Get sexy, luscious-looking lips with just one application of Fruity Jelly Lip Gloss on top of your favorite matte or satin lipstick!
- Lip Smooth - A lip balm that hydrates and comforts dry and chapped lips. Protects and conditions for soft, smooth lips giving your lips a sheer, shiny finish.
- Water Shine Ice - Refreshing cool lip gloss that is lightweight in texture glides on smooth, never feels sticky that keeps lips feeling cool and fresh. Glossy color with a hint of mint.
- Moisture Whip - Moisturizing your lips has never been this easy and affordable! With just one glide of Moisture Whip, lips are drenched with 66% moisturizers and conditioners.
- Water Shine 3D - No need to go to an expensive derma clinic to plump up those lips, Water Shine 3D makes your lips plumper than ever with just one application!

Lips that dazzle like Diamonds
NEW
MAYBELLINE
WATERSHINE
Hyper Diamonds®
HEART WARMING PRICE P299
MAYBELLINE
NEW YORK
MAYBE SHE'S BORN WITH IT. MAYBE IT'S MAYBELLINE.

Lips dazzle with the allure of diamonds, thanks to its Brilliant Cut Reflector formula. And lips glisten with liquid sheen and stay intensely moisturized. Add that sparkle of appeal with new Watershine Hyper Diamonds®!

AVAILABLE IN 7 NEW DAZZLING SHADES!

Josie Maran is wearing Watershine Hyper Diamonds Lipcolor in Precious Wine.

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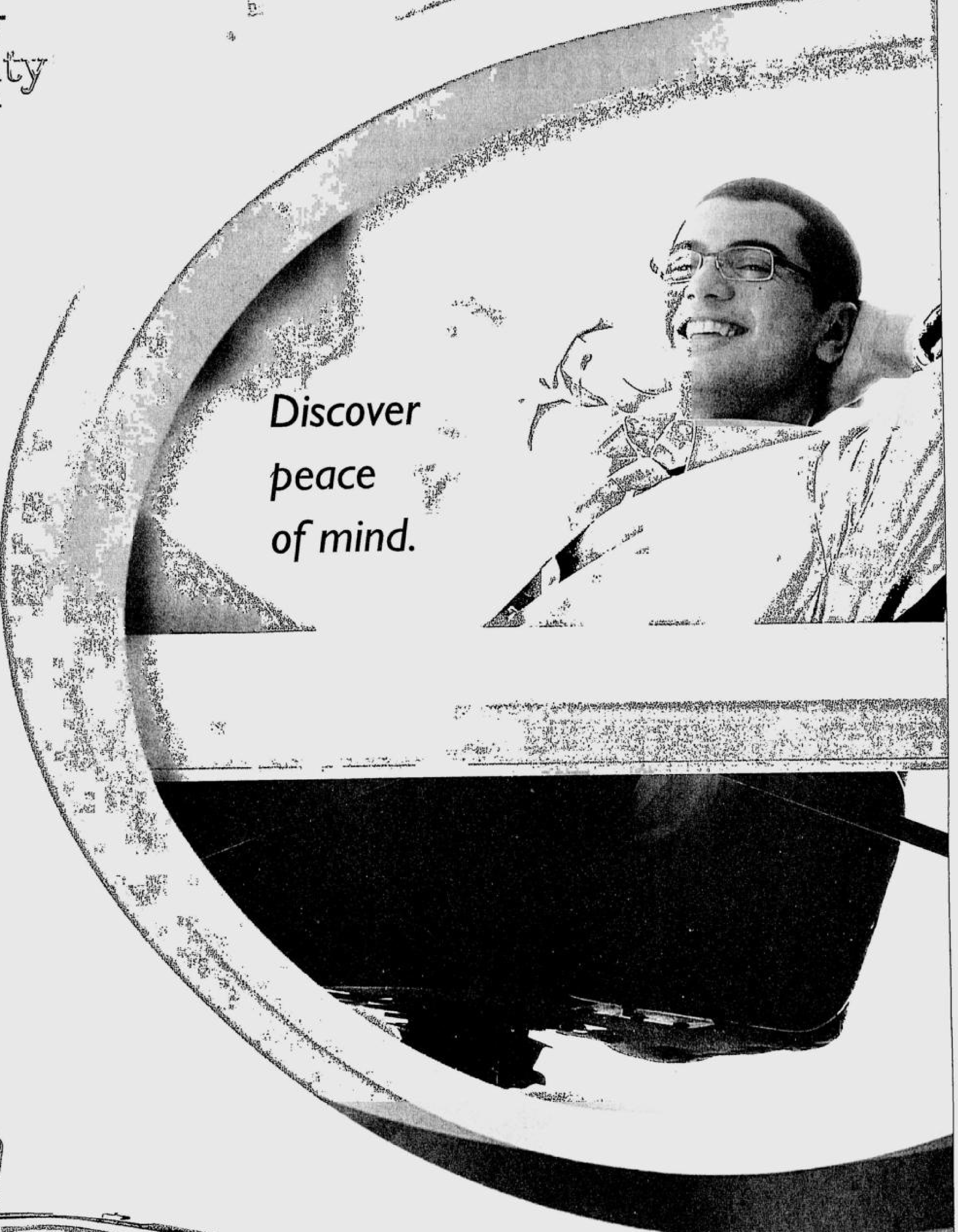
Enjoy life's best.



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Love in the Time of Lent

24/7

Janine Cuenca-Dario

WITH so many events lined up for lovers towards that amorous day, what is there for Valentine scrooges or the single girl or boy to do? Run far, far away? Traveling off to nearby Tagaytay is an option now while the weather is lovely. For those of you who look forward to this week year in and year out, here are some events I recommend. Have a great week filled with love!

Saturday, Feb. 12

It is the second installment of the annual Lovapalooza at the Baywalk along Roxas Boulevard featuring Paolo Santos, Jay-R, Kyla, Bamboo, Parokya ni Edgar and Rivermaya. Couples can participate to relive last year's feat, where 5,122 couples kissed at the stroke of midnight to successfully break the Guinness Book of World Record.

Nostalgia is all the rage this week with Ladies of the '80s featuring Sheena Easton, Taylor Dayne and Tiffany at Araneta Coliseum (T: 911-5555) and The Golden Legends with Chris Montez, Dennis Yost and Gordon Waller at the Aliw Theater (T: 891-9999).

Those who hate the mush can watch comedy instead with Shocks in D City featuring Jon Santos at the Music Museum (T: 721-0635, 721-6726). My personal choice would be to listen to the music of theater stalwarts Lyn Sherman, Michael Williams and Pinky Amador at Dish (T: 413-0603).

Sunday, Feb. 13

This being a special month of events, a Sunday is still exciting with a foreign concert being offered. For the 40 and 50 somethings, the soul sound of the '60s and '70s is a great retro experience. The Greatest Hits of Motown features soul legends, The Supremes, The Temptations, The Miracles and the Junior Walker Band at the Araneta Coliseum (T: 911-5555).

Monday, Feb. 14

The nostalgia series goes on with critically-acclaimed '70s folk pop band America: Live in Manila at the NBC Tent (T: 891-9999). Listen to them dish out their old hits like "Horse With No Name," "Muscrat Love," "Ventura Highway," "Sister Golden Hair" and others.

Music heavyweights Gary V. & Zsa Zsa are also featured in Faces of Love at Le Pavillon, Roxas Boulevard (T: 911-5555). You can also troop to the Music Museum to be entertained by Ogie Alcasid: PWR F LUV, a Valentine's concert with guests Kyla and Rachelle Ann Go (T: 891-9999).

Tuesday, Feb. 15

The UP Film Institute (T: 926-3640) celebrates the month of hearts with an array of notable screen romances including "Innocence." You may also want to catch 24/7 current February cover girl and music's toast of the town Mishka Adams performing with The Blue Echoes, in one of her favorite bars, '70s Bistro (T: 434-3597).

Wednesday, Feb. 16

Midweek is a good time for art. Parangal for Pacita Abad is a selection of the late artist's papers, art and memorabilia on exhibit at the Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University (T: 426-6001). Various cultural happenings are on every Wednesday night of February at the Ayala Museum (T: 757-7117 to 31 or e-mail inquiry@ayalamuseum.org).

In Artshop at NCCA, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts is offering free training on the arts for Intramuros children to complement the activities that will happen in the different regions of the country.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Make this night a gastronomic adventure and head over to Good Earth Oriental Cuisine at the Republic of Malate (T: 303-8729, 303-8731) or Embassy Cuisine at The Fort (T: 816-4195) a delight to both the eye and the palate. If you feel like that kind of genre, check out the Jazz Night, Segafredo Valero St., Salcedo Village (T: 845-3610, 845-3546).

Friday, Feb. 18

You have another chance to catch Mishka Adams, this time at Podium Mall's Jazz in Love series.

We also suggest you get away from the maddening crowds and get a taste of Philippine theater. In observance of the Lenten season, the musical play "Padre Pio: The Living Crucifix," is being staged at the Lourdes School of Mandaluyong, Ortigas Center (T: 631-1921). A light alternative would be "Busybody," a production of Repertory Philippines (T: 887-0710) at Onstage, Greenbelt 1.

LOVE/ D3

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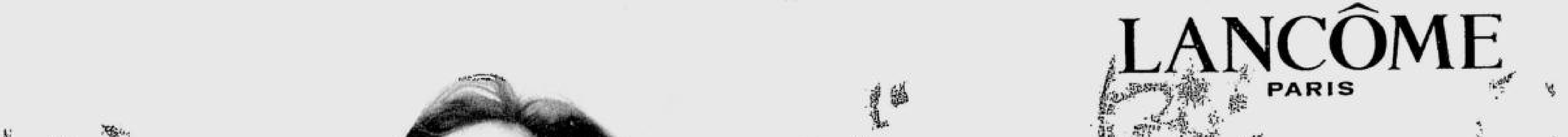

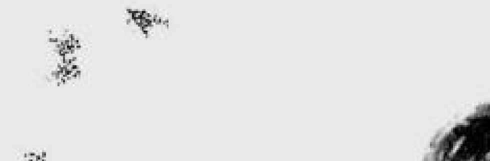

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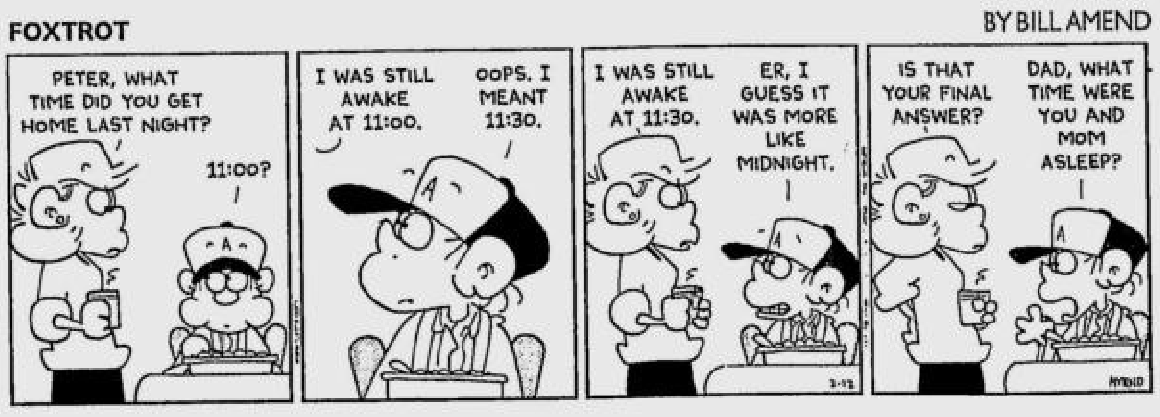
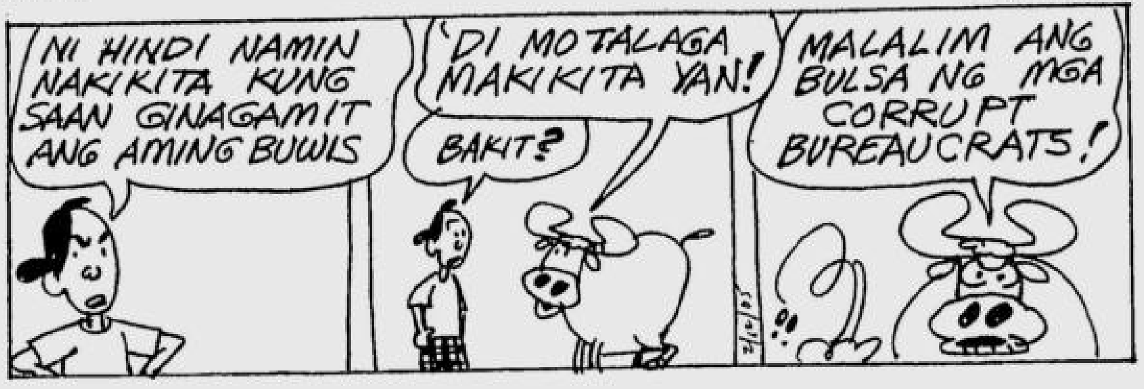
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, WHAT TIME DID YOU GET HOME LAST NIGHT?
11:00?
I WAS STILL AWAKE AT 11:00.
OOPS. I MEANT 11:30.
I WAS STILL AWAKE AT 11:30.
ER, I GUESS IT WAS MORE LIKE MIDNIGHT.
IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?
DAD, WHAT TIME WERE YOU AND MOM ASLEEP?
2-12
AMEND

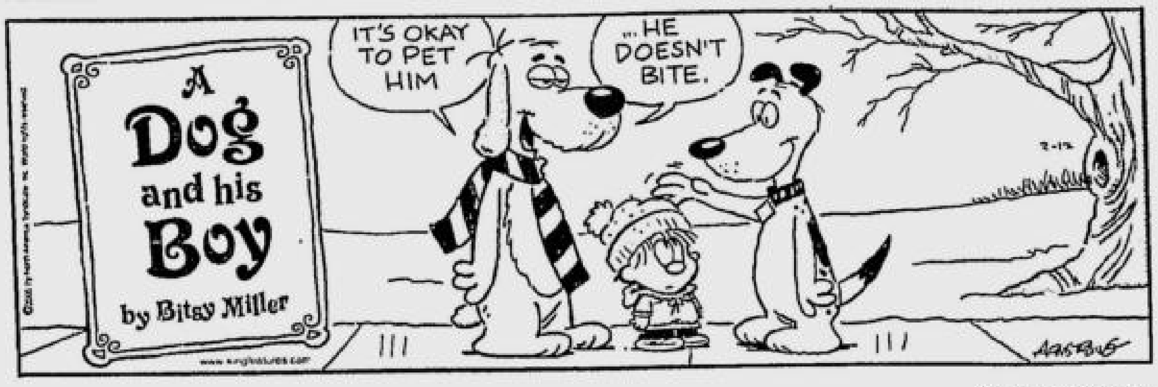
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NI HINDI NAMIN NAKIKITA KUNG SAAN GINAGAMIT ANG AMING BUWIS
BAKIT?
'DI MO TALAGA MAKIKITA YAN!
MALALIM ANG BULSA NG MGA CORRUPT BUREAUCRATS!

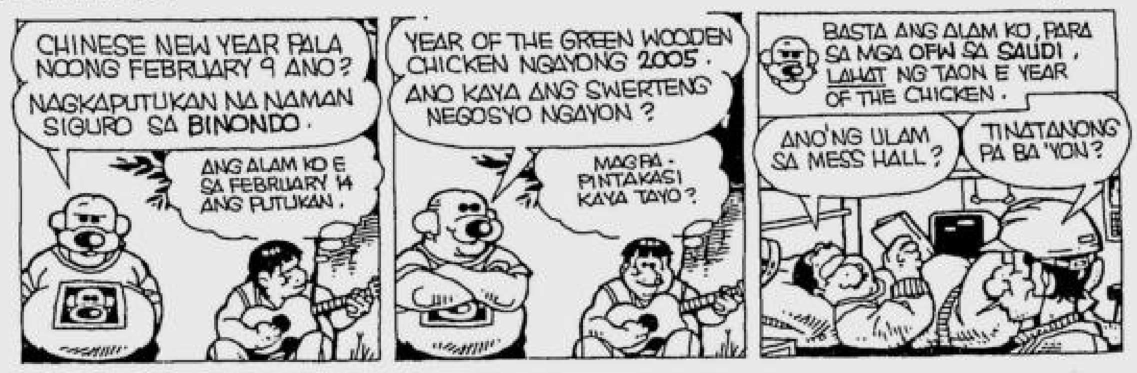
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


A Dog and his Boy
by Bitsy Miller
IT'S OKAY TO PET HIM
...HE DOESN'T BITE.
2-12
ARMSTRONG

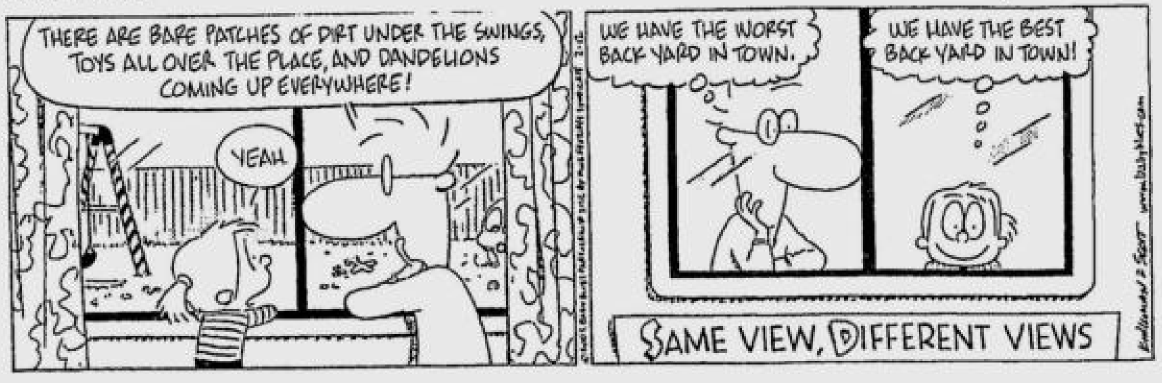
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


CHINESE NEW YEAR PALA NOONG FEBRUARY 9 ANO?
NAGKAPUTUKAN NA NAMAN SIGURO SA BINONDO.
ANG ALAM KO E SA FEBRUARY 14 ANG PUTUKAN.
YEAR OF THE GREEN WOODEN CHICKEN NGAYONG 2005.
ANO KAYA ANG SWERTENG NEGOSYO NGAYON?
MAGPA-PINTAKASI KAYA TAYO?
BASTA ANG ALAM KO, PARA SA MGA OFW SA SAUDI, LAHAT NG TAON E YEAR OF THE CHICKEN.
ANO'NG ULAM SA MESS HALL?
TINATANONG PA BA 'YON?

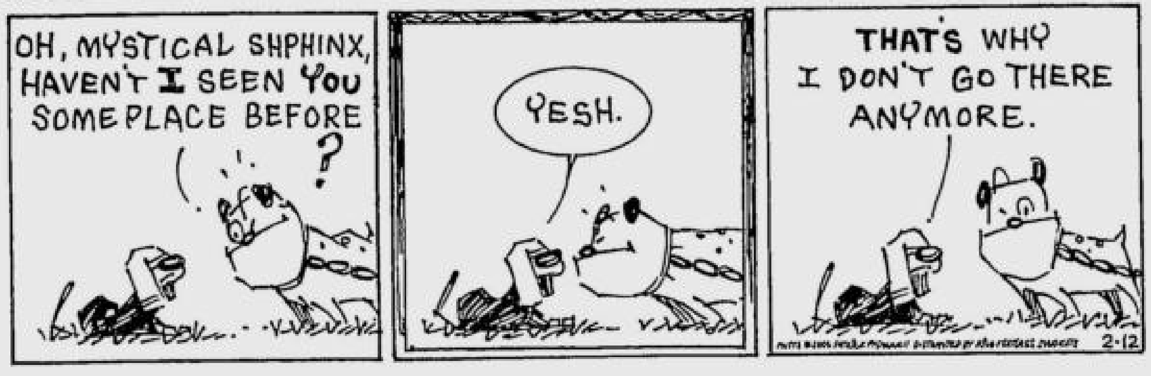
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THERE ARE BARE PATCHES OF DIRT UNDER THE SWINGS, TOYS ALL OVER THE PLACE, AND DANDELIONS COMING UP EVERYWHERE!
YEAH
WE HAVE THE WORST BACK YARD IN TOWN.
WE HAVE THE BEST BACK YARD IN TOWN!
SAME VIEW, DIFFERENT VIEWS

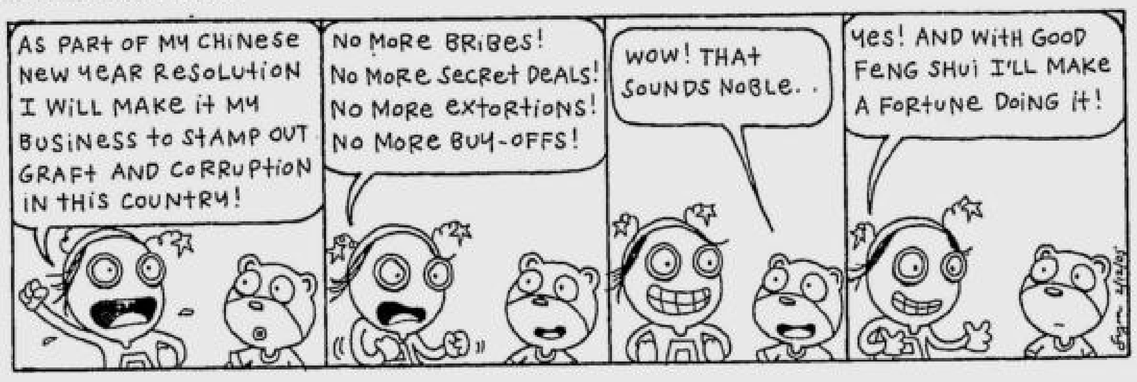
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, MYSTICAL SHPHINX, HAVEN'T I SEEN YOU SOMEPLACE BEFORE?
YESH.
THAT'S WHY I DON'T GO THERE ANYMORE.
2-12

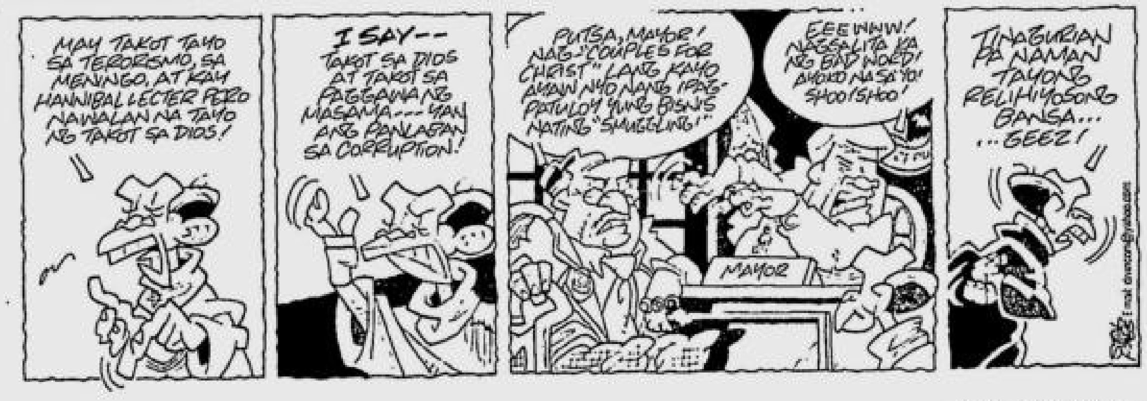
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AS PART OF MY CHINESE NEW YEAR RESOLUTION I WILL MAKE IT MY BUSINESS TO STAMP OUT GRAFT AND CORRUPTION IN THIS COUNTRY!
NO MORE BRIBES! NO MORE SECRET DEALS! NO MORE EXTORTIONS! NO MORE BUY-OFFS!
WOW! THAT SOUNDS NOBLE..
YES! AND WITH GOOD FENG SHUI I'LL MAKE A FORTUNE DOING IT!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MAY TAKOT TAYO SA TERORISMO, SA MENINGO, AT KAY HANNIBAL LECTER PERO NAWALAN NA TAYO NG TAKOT SA DIOS!
I SAY-- TAKOT SA DIOS AT TAKOT SA PAGGAWA NG MASAMA--- YAN ANG PANLABAN SA CORRUPTION!
PUTSA, MAYOR! NAG-"COUPLES FOR CHRIST" LANG KAYO AMAN NYO NANG IPAG-PATULOY YUNG BISNIS NATING "SMUGGLING"!
EEEWWW! NAGSALITA KA NG BAD WORD! AYOKO NA SA 'YO! SHOO! SHOO!
MAYOR
TINAGURIAN PA NAMAN TAYONG RELIHIYOSONG BANSA... ...GEEZ!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have the ability to bring together different elements and opposing sides. You do this as a leader. You do many things very well. Because you see all sides of a question, you're a good judge or ombudsman. You can bring consensus where there is dissent. The year ahead will present you with important choices. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Abraham Lincoln, 16th US president, Christina Ricci, actress; Judy Blume, novelist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today you have the opportunity to patch up problematic friendships. This lovely influence is so strong you can turn something rotten into something beautiful.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might have to confront powerful people today. Don't worry; you can work things out. You can shift your goals so that they dovetail with the goals of others. (That was easy.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Others might try to convince you about their religion or their philosophy in life. Ironically, you might learn something today. Keep an open mind

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might find new uses for existing material or equipment or items that you share with someone else. Look for new applications for these things.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You can mend a close relationship or really turn it around in a new, improved way. A powerful discussion might take place; nevertheless, good results can happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can definitely improve your health today in some way. Whether through diet or exercise, whatever you do will have a strong, beneficial effect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Children might want you to tell the truth about something today. If so, tell it. You can't really fool kids. They just let you think you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a wonderful day to make big improvements at home. Fix what needs to be repaired, especially in plumbing and bathroom areas. Be frank in your discussions with family members.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't bulldoze others into agreeing with you. You have the power to be persuasive today. Use it wisely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might have an opportunity to come up with an entirely new source of earning money. This could be related to the government or large institutions, like hospitals and prisons.

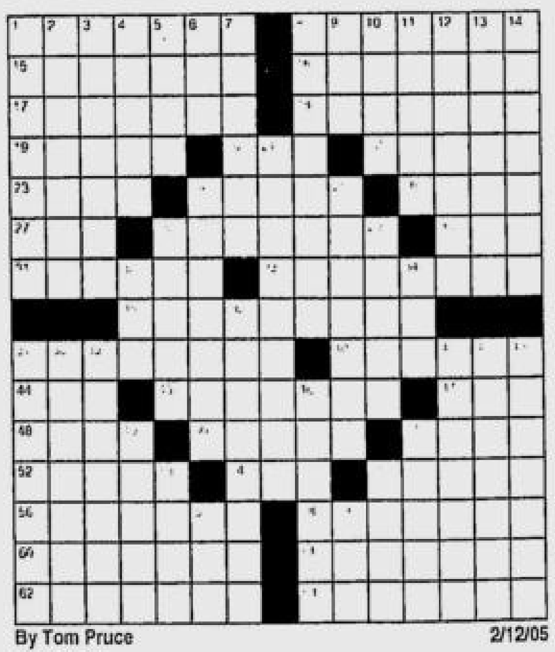
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Don't hesitate to make changes to your appearance or your image today. Whatever you do will be an improvement. It could involve cutting your hair.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a wonderful day to research or ferret out secrets and solutions to old problems. Nothing is too much trouble. You won't stop until you find what you're looking for!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Stray
8 One who bequeaths
15 Magic-lamp man
16 Foolish
17 Dietrich of "The Blue Angel"
18 Damp to the max
19 Ninnies
20 Make free (of)
22 Birch relative
23 Rouse
24 "__ of God"
26 Bronte heroine
27 "The Adventures of __ Carson"
28 Venus __
30 Gabor of "Green Acres"
31 Partner of Charybdis
33 Caused delays
35 Lethargic state
37 Scholarly
40 Sailor's jacket
44 Move up and down
45 Shawls for siestas
47 Caustic solution
48 Aphrodite's boy
50 __ on (mollycoddles)
51 Regrets with bitterness
52 Some quiz answers
54 __-whiz!
55 Saying
56 Back seat in an antique automobile
58 __ of Paris
60 It's likely
61 Most weird
62 Holds a grudge
63 Kalahari and Gobi

DOWN
1 Twilled table linens
2 Stretchy
3 University's A team
4 Lazybones
5 Citrus fruit coolers
6 Malleable metal
7 Power
8 Ran, as a stocking does
9 ISS partner
10 Actress Lollobrigida
11 Low joint
12 Recolored hippie-style
13 Tennis without breaks
14 Used tire
21 Complex
24 Frightened
25 Takeoffs
28 Arctic ice sheets
29 Meat pastes
32 Upscale '60s Ford
34 Grain in a Salinger title
36 Tree-trunk canoes
37 Immoral enabler
38 Impair steadily
39 Teems (with)
41 Flap rapidly
42 Driver's license requirement
43 Vacation destinations
46 Chirped
49 Reason
51 Comic O'Donnell
53 Connery or Penn
55 Neighboring planet
57 Gallery display
59 Christopher or Pinky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By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
2/12/05

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	E	B	A	■	A	L	M	A	■	F	U	M	E
M	A	R	E	S	■	D	O	G	S	■	U	N	I	X
F	R	I	G	H	T	M	A	S	K	■	T	I	K	I
M	C	G	■	C	H	A	N	■	F	L	U	T	E	S
■	■	■	P	A	I	N	■	P	O	O	R	E	S	T
B	U	T	A	N	E	■	V	E	R	S	E	■	■	■
I	V	A	N	■	F	A	I	T	■	E	S	T	E	S
D	E	B	I	T	■	S	T	E	■	S	H	A	L	L
S	A	U	C	E	■	P	A	R	L	■	O	S	S	O
■	■	■	A	N	D	E	S	■	R	O	C	K	E	T
L	A	S	T	E	R	N	■	J	U	N	K	■	■	■
P	L	A	T	T	E	■	B	O	S	C	■	S	P	Y
I	O	W	A	■	S	M	O	K	E	A	L	A	R	M
C	H	I	C	■	S	I	Z	E	■	L	O	G	I	C
S	A	N	K	■	Y	G	O	R	■	L	L	A	M	A

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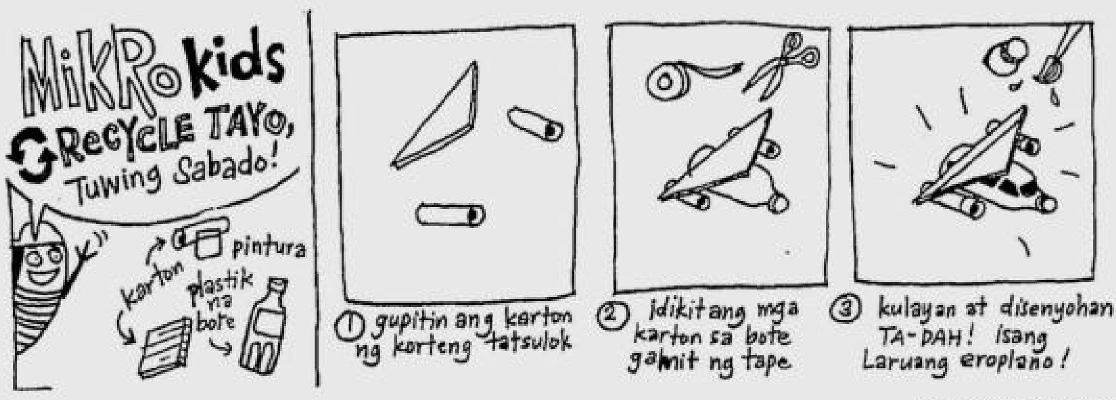
2/12/05

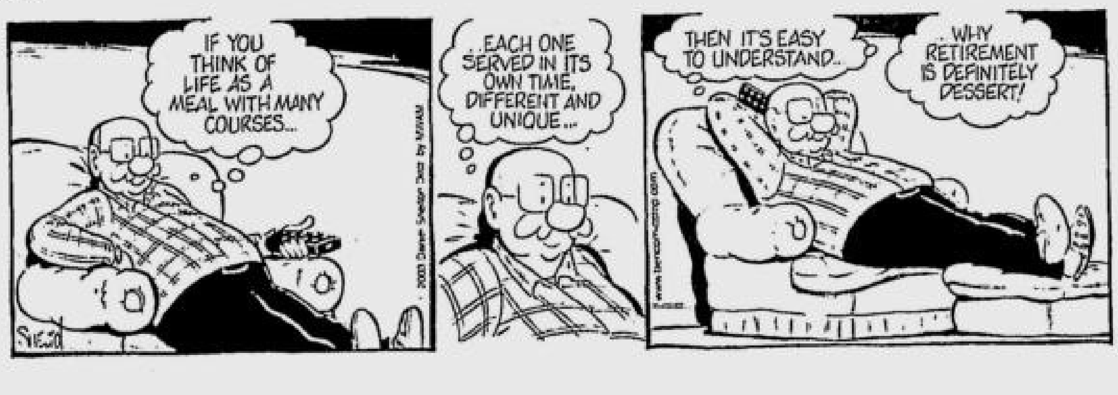
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo Kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
karton
pintura
plastik na bote
① gupitin ang karton ng korteng tatsulok
② idikit ang mga karton sa bote gamit ng tape
③ kulayan at disenyohan. TA-DAH! Isang Laruang eroplano!

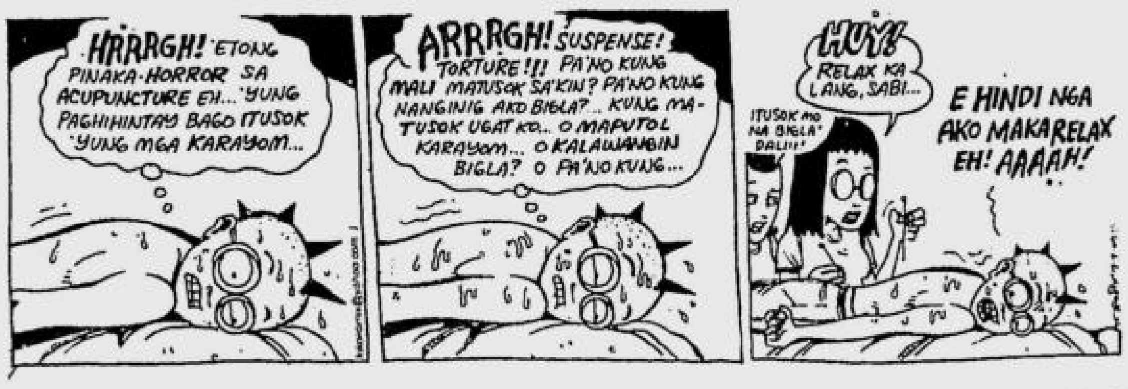
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


IF YOU THINK OF LIFE AS A MEAL WITH MANY COURSES...
..EACH ONE SERVED IN ITS OWN TIME, DIFFERENT AND UNIQUE...
THEN IT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND...
..WHY RETIREMENT IS DEFINITELY DESSERT!

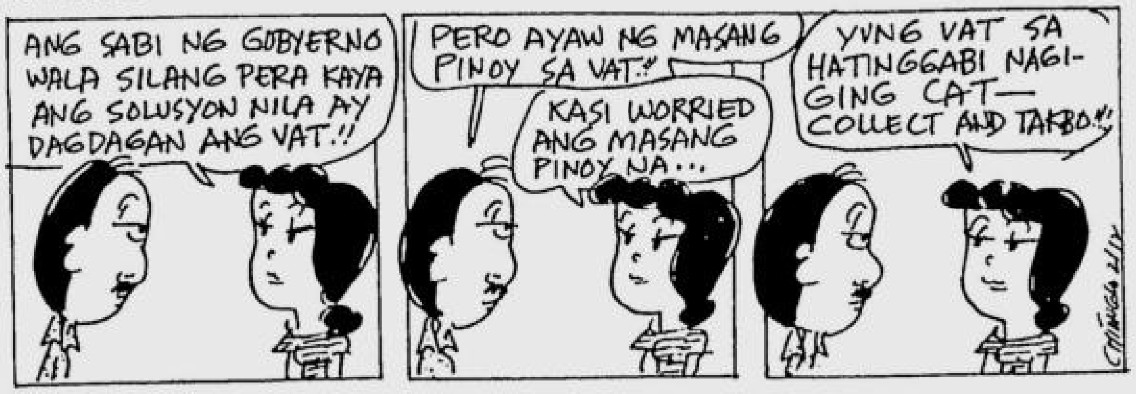
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRRGH! ETONG PINAKA-HORROR SA ACUPUNCTURE EH... 'YUNG PAGHIHINTAY BAGO ITUSOK 'YUNG MGA KARAYOM...
ARRRGH! SUSPENSE! TORTURE!!! PA'NO KUNG MALI MATUSOK SA'KIN? PA'NO KUNG NANGINIG AKO BIGLA?... KUNG MATUSOK UGAT KO... O MAPUTOL KARAYOM... O KALAWANGIN BIGLA? O PA'NO KUNG...
HUY! RELAX KA LANG, SABI...
ITUSOK MO NA BIGLA' DALI!!
E HINDI NGA AKO MAKARELAX EH! AAAAH!

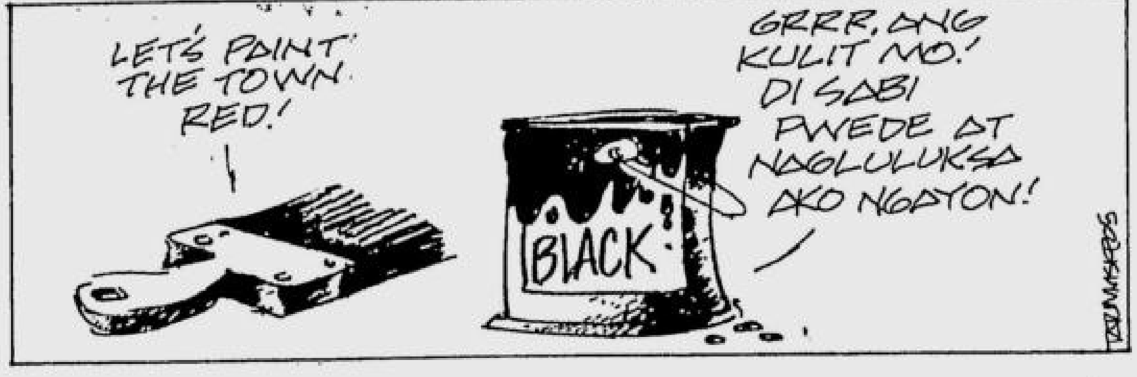
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SABI NG GOBYERNO WALA SILANG PERA KAYA ANG SOLUSYON NILA AY DAGDAGAN ANG VAT.!!
PERO AYAW NG MASANG PINOY SA VAT.!
KASI WORRIED ANG MASANG PINOY NA...
YUNG VAT SA HATINGGABI NAGIGING CAT— COLLECT AND TAKBO.!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LET'S PAINT THE TOWN RED!
GRRR, ANG KULIT MO! DI SABI PWEDE AT NAGLULUKSA AKO NGAYON!
BLACK

Love in the Time of Lent

From page D1

Saturday, Feb. 19

Clarion Chamber Ensemble's Tango Glorioso with soprano Rachel Gerodias and the Steps Studio dancers at the Philam Life Theater sounds interesting.

Instead of watching those pirated DVDs at home, check out the Instituto Cervantes for their 7 ½ Love Stories series that will screen "Los peores años de nuestra vida" (The Worst Years of Our Lives) or François Trauffaut's "L'histoire d'Adele H." at Alliance Française de Manille. Who knows? You may just meet someone with the same passion for European movies as you do.

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. To win prizes such as Ipod Shuffle and a Peugeot, log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules and comments every Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com or fax number 892-0689. Vote your 2004 nocturnal favorites by texting REACT <category> <your choice> to 2910 via any mobile network. Categories include Restaurant, Bar, Event, Show, DJ and Artist.

Other Gigs of the Week (optional)

Feb. 12, Saturday

Queens on Fire: Pops and Regine V. at Ultra

Swinging Saturdays with Boyet Almazan at Teak

Nyoy Volante and Jimmy Bondoc at Eastwood City

Aretha & the Soul'd Out Band at Merk's

Shocks in D City with Jon Santos at Music Museum

Film showing of "Haz conmigo lo que quieras" at Instituto Cervantes

Spy at '70s Bistro

Lyn Sherman, Michael Williams and Pinky Amador at Dish

Feb. 13, Sunday

Aretha & the Soul'd Out Band at Merk's

Sandy Litchfield exhibit at Galleria Duemila

John Silva's Vintage Photos at Silver Lens Gallery

Ogie Alcasid at Music Museum

Feb. 14, Monday

Greatest Hits of Motown at Araneta Coliseum

Tropical Depression & Peace Pipe at '70s Bistro

Kyla & Love Connection at Eastwood City

Aretha & the Soul'd Out Band at Merk's

Freestyle at Tavern on the Square

Feb. 15, Tuesday

Faces of Love: Gary V. & Zsa Zsa at Le Pavillon

ZoDiac w/ Steve Mills at Absinth

Route 70 at Merk's

Ebony Grooves w/ Jon Herrera & Stephen Ku at V Bar

Feb. 16, Wednesday

Paolo Santos at '70s Bistro

Steve Mills & Aryan at Il Ponticello

Jon Herrera & Stephen Ku at Temple

Guarana at Café Havana, Malate

Side A at Tavern on the Square

DJ Manolet Dario at V Bar

Feb. 17, Thursday

Acoustic Jive at Merk's

Phuture Thursdays at Bed

Guarana at Conservatory at Peninsula Manila

Feb. 18, Friday

Jazz in Love w/ Mishka Adams at Podium Mall

Barbie's Cradle at Dish

U-Turn at Tapika

Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Soleil

HouSessions w/ Manolet Dario at Teak

The Jerks at '70s Bistro

Feb. 19, Saturday

Swinging Saturdays w/ Boyet Almazan at Teak

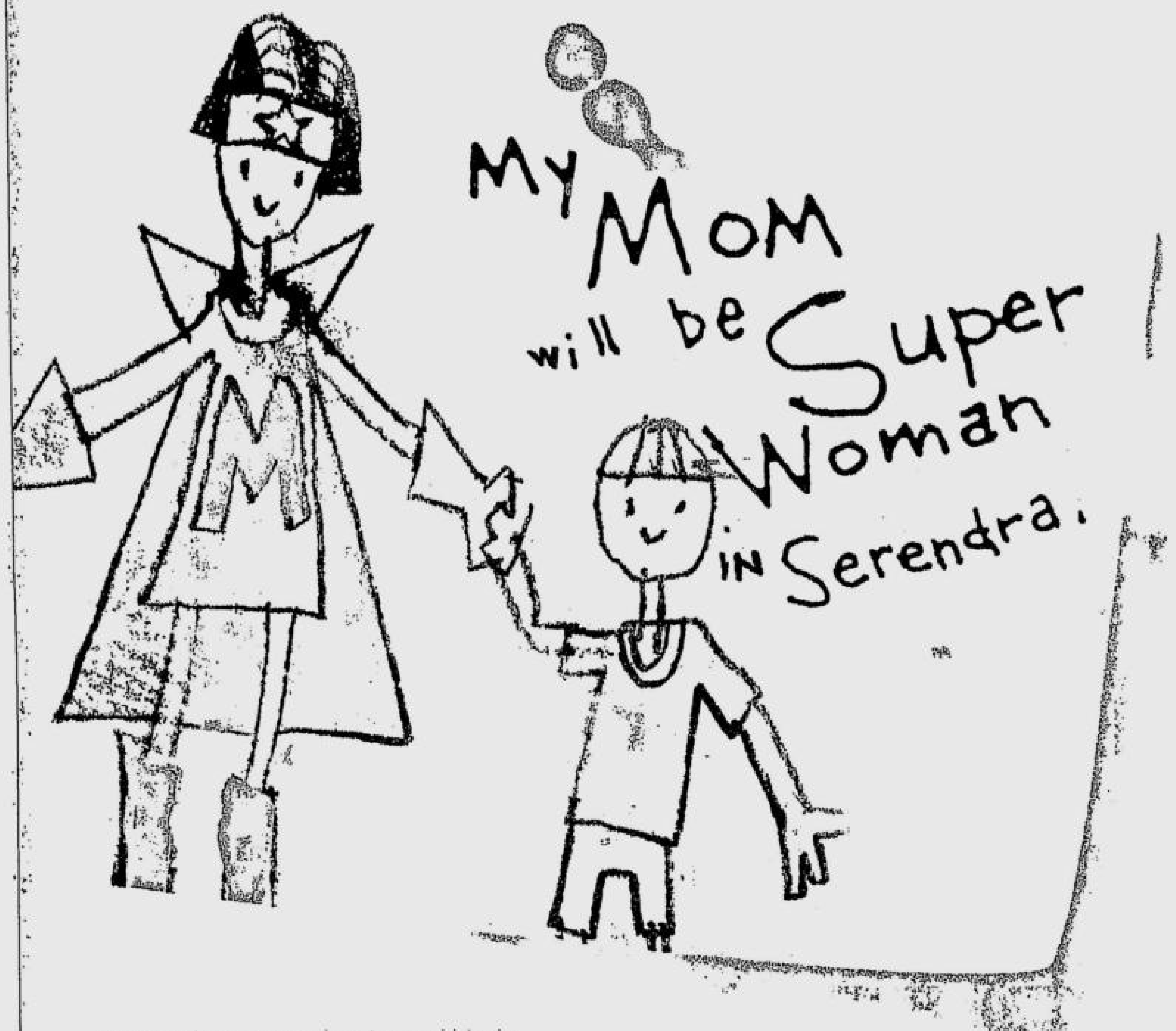
Pinikpikan at '70s Bistro

The Cruzin Band at Merk's

Hype Saturdays w/ Rico Robles at Rack's El Pueblo

Flava'D w/ DJs Rocky Rock & Shorty at Absinth

Deep Groove with House DJs at Mati



Serendra
An AYALA Community

SUBURBAN LIVING IN THE CITY

With about 65% of its 12 hectares devoted to pristine greenery, Serendra is truly a kid's wonderland. A veritable playground where children can roam free. A nature sanctuary where they can learn first-hand about the glory of creation. Situated in the heart of Bonifacio Global City, Serendra has sprawling gardens, tree-lined walkways, wading pools, playgrounds, and charming residential units that marry European-inspired masterplanning and Filipino warmth and sensibility. You'll also find game rooms, restaurants, multi-purpose courts, and a promenade. It's near several prestigious schools, hospitals, and some of the world's best shopping as well.

Where other residential properties force you to choose between accessibility and space, Serendra gives you both and more. It's far enough from the daily grind to make you forget the tedium of the rat race. Near enough to make sure families have more time together. And spacious enough to make sure such moments are enjoyed to the full.

Now you don't need to go far to get away from it all. Serendra gives you all the perks of suburban living right at the heart of the metropolis. Your kid will surely claim it as his playground. And you will be proud to call it your home.

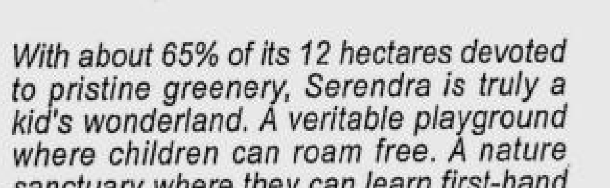
Ever since he can remember, 6-year old Arnie has known this for a fact: his mom Patricia is actually Wonder Woman. "She's sooo cool!", Arnie gushes. Seems his mom is always there when he needs her. And never (or so he says) runs out of steam. But then he spills the beans on a bigger bombshell. "You know, my mom's powers are growing. Yup! Soon, she will become Superwoman!" Now, that sounds infinitely more interesting. (A young, charming, and mild-mannered executive creative director in one of the country's top advertising agencies, Patricia certainly could look the part.) And what do you suppose made Arnie think that? Well, it seems mom herself has been telling him about her new-found super powers. And it all came together when she found this land of super heroes called Serendra.

The name itself conjures images of fantasy and magic for Arnie. Serendra. Endless expanses of green. Enchanted trees. Vast playgrounds where Arnie and his friends can ramble. A place where the very earth is charged with stupendous energy. Stuff that will help his mom acquire incredible super powers. And help her do things she never could have done before. Things Arnie himself never thought possible.

For starters, his mom will have super speed. She'll be able to drop him and big sister off to school and dad to work every morning, and still be the first one in at her office in Makati. "She will be able to shop for anything we need - faster than a speeding bullet." And then his mom will have super strength. "Mom said when we move to Serendra, she can get home early and help us with our schoolwork, even if she's got tons of work. She'll even cook my favorite fried chicken for dinner. And play hide-and-seek all night long."

Super-speed? Super-strength? We may never really know. One thing's for sure, though. Now that Patricia and her family are moving to Serendra, she can become Superwoman to her kid forever. A premier residential development from Ayala Land, Serendra is just a heartbeat away from the business hub of Makati, yet isolated enough from the cares of the city. Where a kid's imagination can fly from Krypton to planet Earth in the blink of an eye. And mom and dad's super powers can multiply a hundred-fold.

This world sure is crying out for heroes. Like Patricia, maybe it's time you heed the call.



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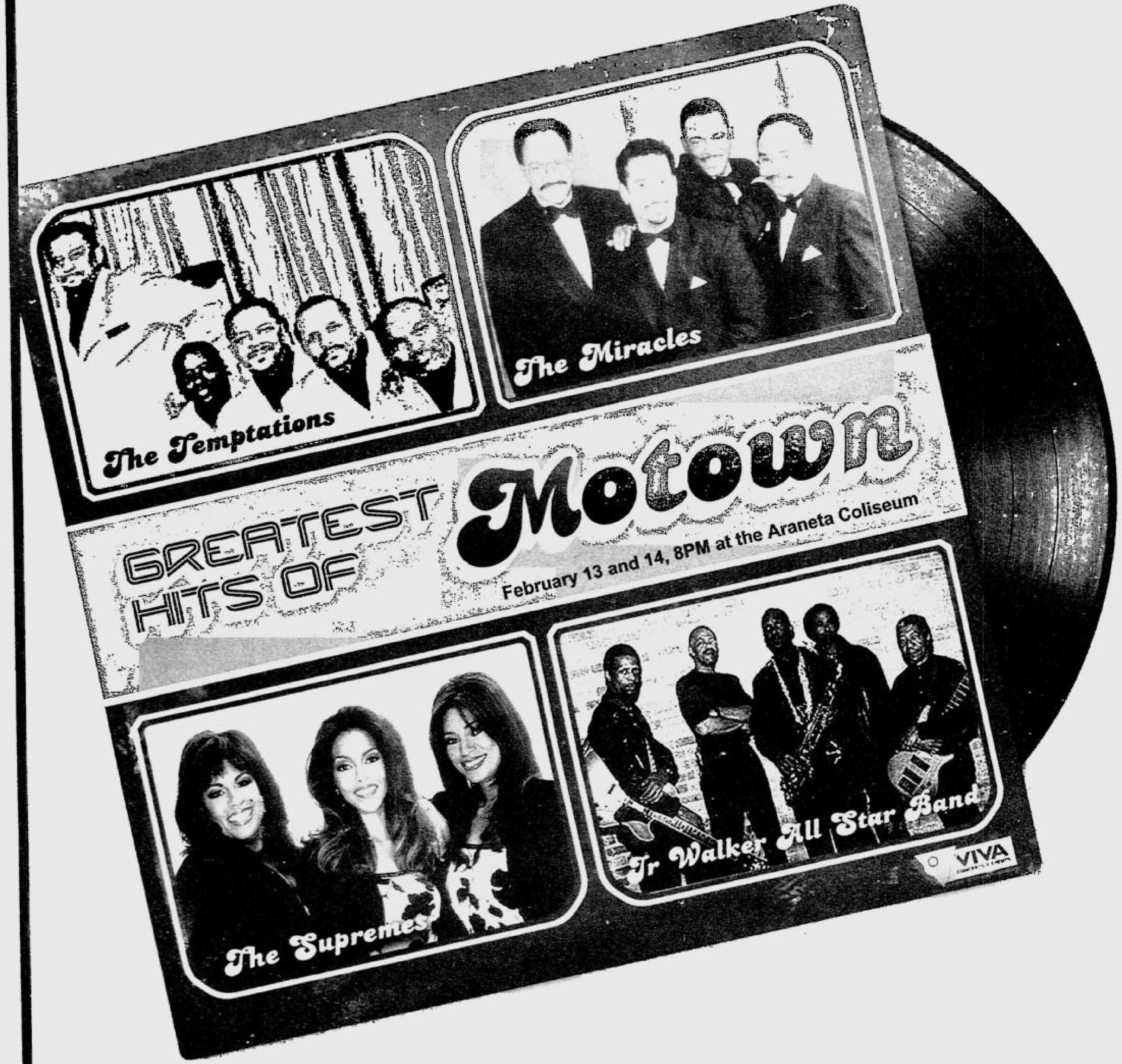
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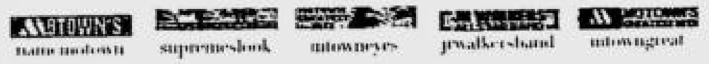
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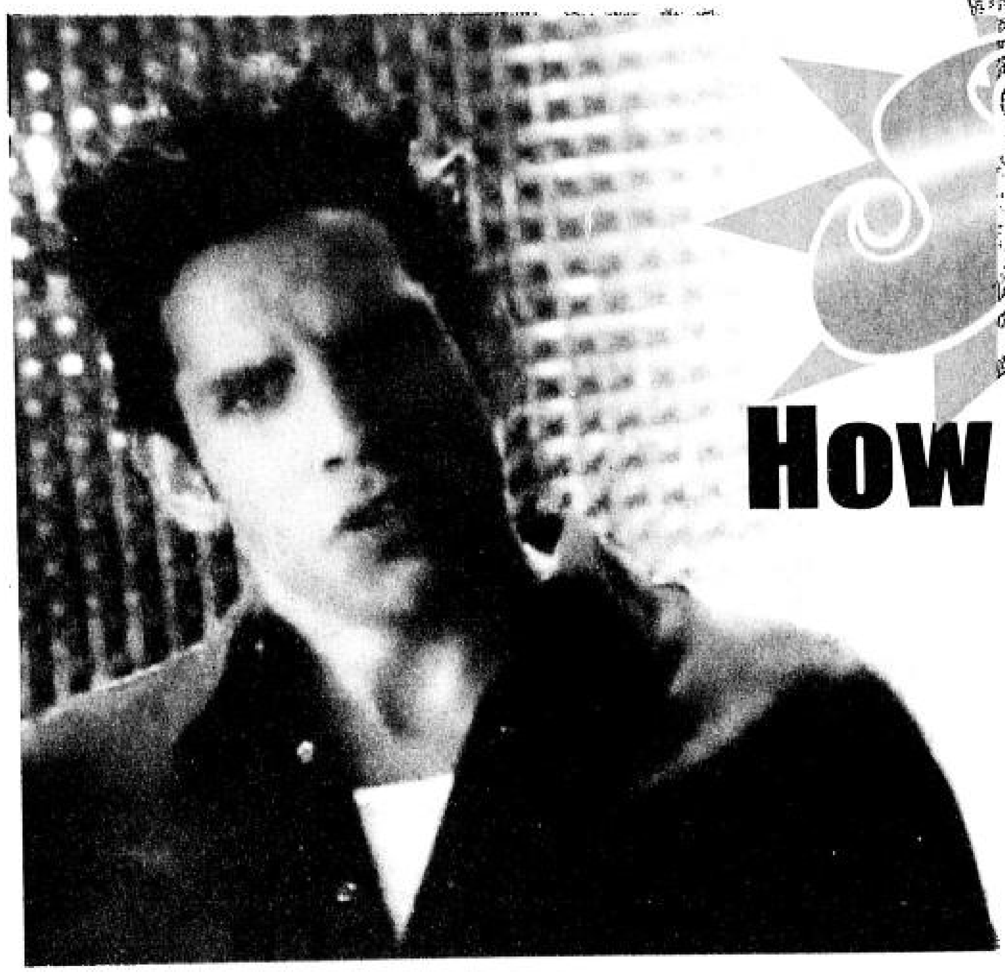

How to date a male model

[And still keep your self-esteem intact]

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

IN THE smoky, orange-tinted haze of the dance floor one night, a guy grabbed my hand and I panicked in sheer terror.

Not because he resembled a shiitake mushroom, or that he wore colossal gold-plated bling blings over his chest hair that curled like pancit canton. Neither was he a sweat-soaked

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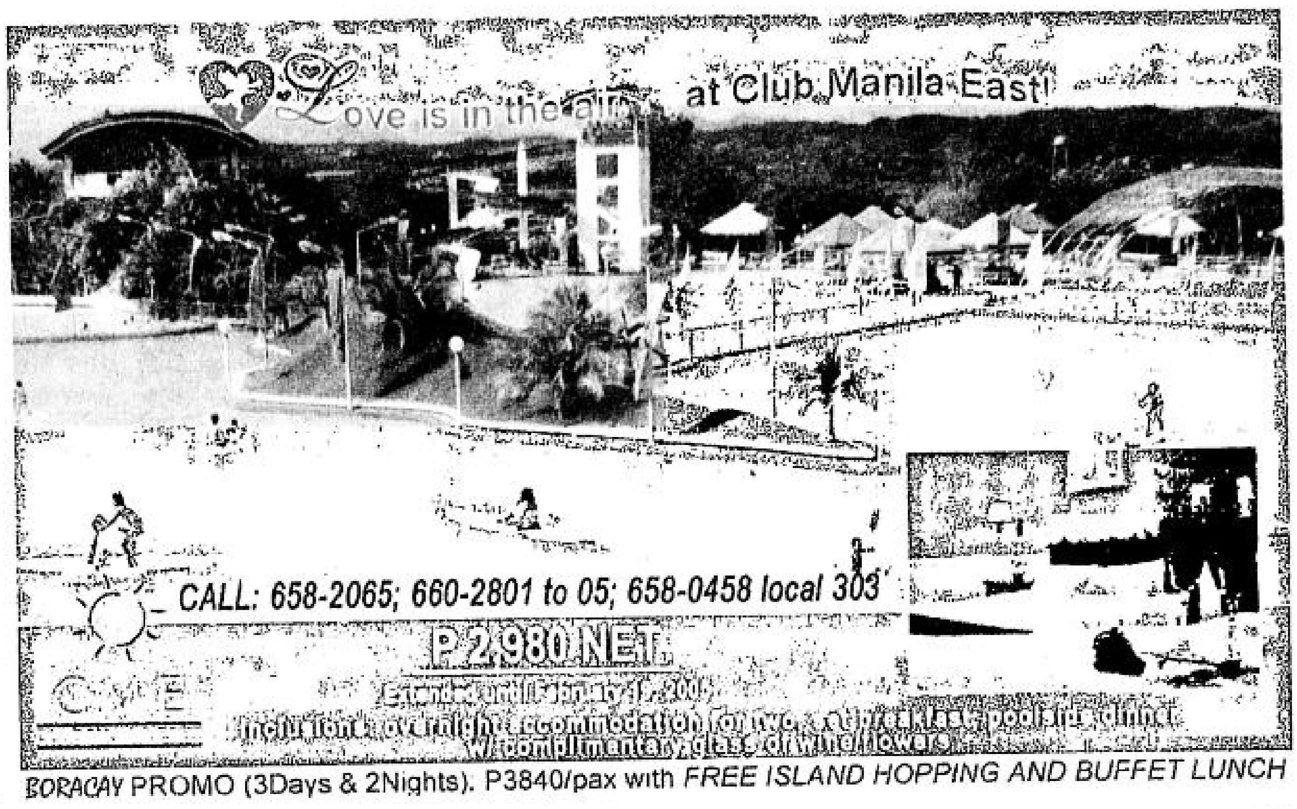

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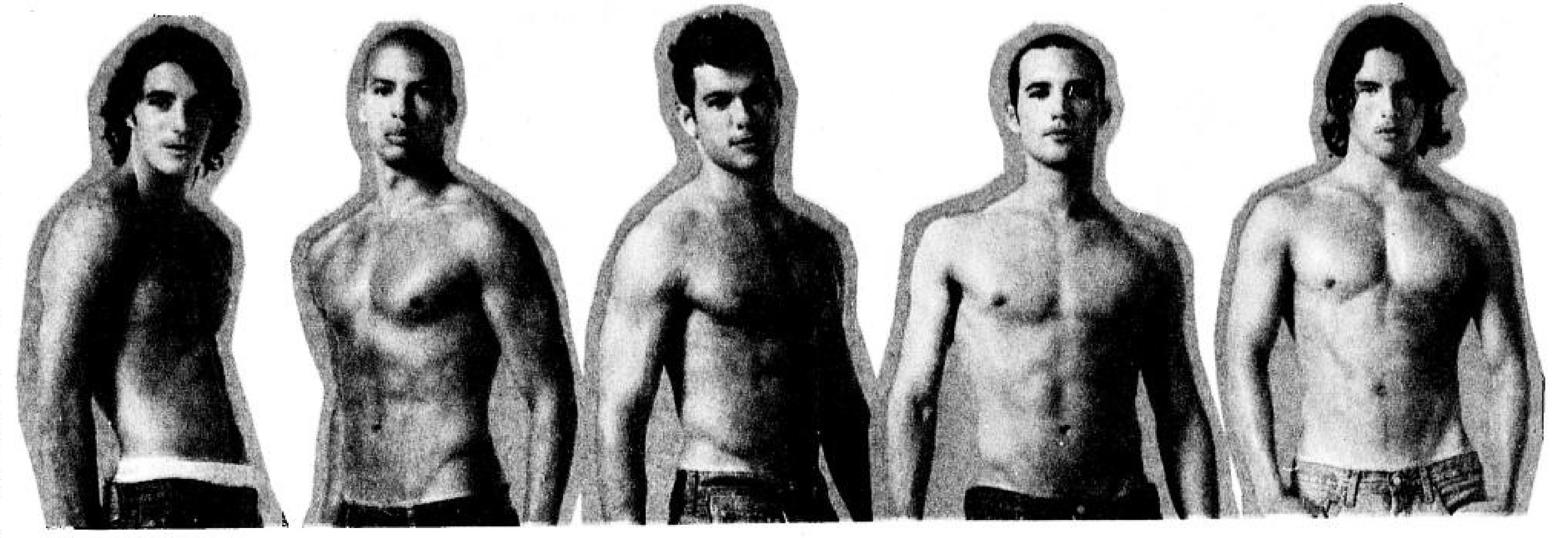
Male bikini waxes and blue steel

By RJ Ledesma

"HAVE you ever wondered if there was more to life, other than being really, really, really, ridiculously good looking?"
–Derek Zoolander, 2001



TIM AND I often echo the same sentiment—wondering if there was more to life.

Some of our detractors think that our show, Studio 23's "The Men's Room," is a pathetic excuse to lounge in a bubble bath with underwear-averse and clothing-deficient women (excuse us, it's not pathetic).

No, the real reason we do "The Men's Room" is because of the publicity. We crave fame the same way William Hung does and we are on par with his performance skills. But there is an altruistic reason behind all this craving and that's to support our favorite charities—Visa and Mastercard.

That's why, much to our reluctance (and to the general disgust of our male viewers), we engineer situations where we can shed our clothes to expose our bulging tummies, our unseemly body hair, and our sun-starved skin. By doing this, we also hope to catch the attention of Ben Chan.

Ben should go down the road nobody wants to travel and use models without stunning features and chiseled abdomens. We've rehearsed the pouty lips and the furrowed brows. Our talent fees will just be the same as that of one of Marc Nelson's abs and we're perfectly fine with that.

But, if Bench doesn't notice us, there is a show for delusional people like us. It's the saving grace that is "Manhunt."

For the uninitiated and the straight men who have issues, "Manhunt: The Search for America's Most Gorgeous Male Model" (which comes out on Star World, 10 p.m., Tuesdays) is an hour-long reality show hosted by Carmen Elektra that takes aim at Ben Stiller's favorite whipping boy—the male modeling industry.

We were beside ourselves when we read from their website (http://www.bravotv.com/ Manhunt) that 20 unsuspecting men will be plucked from the streets and invited to participate in a series of challenges to determine who has the looks, style, stamina and charisma to be a male supermodel.

When real men watched 'Manhunt' and lived to tell the tale

Tim and I chorused, "YES! We could be those unsuspects!" And supposing we got kicked out in the earlier episodes of the show because we didn't know how to induce self-vomiting, it wouldn't matter. We could pull a William Hung and shortcut our way to professional sashaying down the runway.

Strangely enough, we couldn't find other male friends to watch the show with us. This show, we argued, would be an opportunity for us to not only bond with them but also to get in touch with our feminine side. These friends have since stopped returning our calls.

Despite the lack of support, we were determined to watch the show because that's what Tim Yap told us to write about and because we are shameless self-promoters. So the challenge was: could we watch a full hour's worth of half-naked men with perfect skin in sultry poses? Yes, we could.

However, as we were drawn magnetically into the show, we realized that it was actually a seizure-producing study of the human condition. For those who don't have the time nor the courage to watch, here is the Reader's Digest sound bite version of the show:

Relive the danger as the models leap from a plane in nothing but their Calvin Kleins (and the parachute, of course) while the soundtrack of "It's Raining Men" plays in the background.

Revel in the ecstasy as the models pay a visit to the spa for a manicure, pedicure and some much-needed waxing!

Explore their struggles with masculinity as the models are covered in several layers of make-up and hair spray while wrapped in leather, latex and chains to pose for an androgynous, S&M-inspired photo shoot.

Be dumbstruck with fear as the models head to the rainforest to pose with a cockatoo, a tree frog, a millipede and a tarantula!

Marvel at the sight of one of the models becoming flabbergasted because the other competitors didn't realize he was gay! (Not that there's anything wrong with that, as Seinfeld would say.)

Witness the triumphant moment of the winner as he poses for the final naked photo shoot challenge!

The depth of insight, the study of male sexuality, the human drama, the pathos, the intellectual conceit—it was much more than we could take, so we shut off the TV. After taking all of this in, Tim and I came to a profound conclusion: "Manhunt" made Zoolander more believable.

And if there was any moral lesson we picked up aside from the dangers of wearing Calvin Kleins in mid-air, it was this: The stereotypes we apply to women apply to men as well.

Aside from teaching us how to properly tweeze our eyebrows, we learned about the high price of vanity, the over-obsession over weight, the destructive nature of jealousy when we compare chest sizes and the importance of a good manicure. As a result of watching "Manhunt," we've become more sensitive men. I haven't felt this sensitive since I got my root canal.

So, manly men, show your girlfriend how sensitive you can be. Pop a couple of Valiums then invite her to watch "Manhunt." Then snuggle up really tight against her so she can keep in mind that your beer belly is much more comfortable to lie down on than one's washboard abdomen.

For "Manhunt's" second season (God willing), we appeal to Star World, we appeal to BravoTV, we appeal to the Virgin of Lost Causes, to let us be in the next set of unsuspecting men. Enclosed is a publicity photo Tim and I submitted to the male magazines where strangely attractive men appear spread-eagled on the cover (haven't heard from them as well). We had to Photoshop our abs out for fear of reprisal from Marc Nelson. Ladies, please don't scream in delight and for the love of God, please don't throw up. Ben Chan, please call Tim Yap, he has our cell phone numbers and our vital statistics.

Top 10 reasons why straight men should watch 'Manhunt'

By Tim Tayag

10. Inspirational bodies—I have to admit, these guys can make even a straight man stare for however long the show is.

9. To learn more about anorexia, the misunderstood eating disorder—how else do you expect them to keep their lean figures?

8. To discover the hardships in the modeling industry—photo shoots that run five minutes late, androgynous outfits, Evian water bottles with broken seals, short-term blinding effects of flash bulbs, photographers who take bad angles, and many more.

7. To fine tune your gaydar—Don't be fooled by the "metrosexual" tendencies; there's at least one who comes out of the closet and my bet is a lot more are hiding.

6. Bitching—There are more catfights in this show than Animal Planet and Binibining Pilipinas combined.

5. Because "Men's Room" is not on at this time slot. Yes, it's another shameless plug: "Men's Room" every Tuesday at 11:30 p.m. on Studio 23. Your masculinity is safe with us.

4. Because models are real people with real issues—like how their abs look with or without oil, if they're getting too many calories, or if their hair looks better standing up or brushed down.

3. Pretty men crying—there's some satisfaction from seeing tears run down those chiseled cheeks.

2. Carmen Elektra's breast—what she lacks in talent, she makes up for in... "talent."

1. Carmen Elektra's other breast—each one deserves its own place.

MEN'S ROOM, MEN'S HUNT. RJ Ledesma and Tim Tayag, rejects from the "Manhunt" screening

How to date a male model

From page E1

D.O.M. who smelled like a mix of mentholated cream and stale Old Spice. It was the polar opposite in fact—he was tall, stunning and built like a samurai. He was a male model.

I know, I know—a lot of girls would probably pass out or be killed with *kilig* if they were ever picked up by a handsome human mannequin. Yet my reasons for having wanted to push the eject button at that particular moment runs a bit deeper and stems back to recent history. And it's not because I've seen "Zoolander" more than the usual accepted number of times and thus associate the company of male models with a fiery death at a gas station to the tune of "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go."

Macho ado about nothing

I've had more than my fair share of experiences with these "Blue Steel"-gazing pros during my hey days as a magazine editor. The first close encounters with such species were disarming indeed, but as soon as over-bloated egos were revealed, I developed the skill of rolling my eyes so far back up my forehead I could have given myself a frontal lobotomy.

I remember one post-photo shoot experience wherein one such fair male creature, who had hit semi-celebrity stature a few years back, grabbed my phone and actually had the cheek to tell me, "I think you should have my number." He proceeded to input his digits, and then deleted another important number on my phone's fully-booked contact list! Suffice to say he was taken aback at my reaction—instead of bubbling over like a grateful preteener, I asked him point-blank, "And why would I ever waste my thumb chi texting you?"

At another shoot, a photographer asked me to examine the lighting on a contact Polaroid print he had taken of a shirtless male subject. As I was checking out the Pola, the model shouted out to me, "Don't sell that to your friends, *ha*!" (Cut to: an image to me holding down my vomit.)

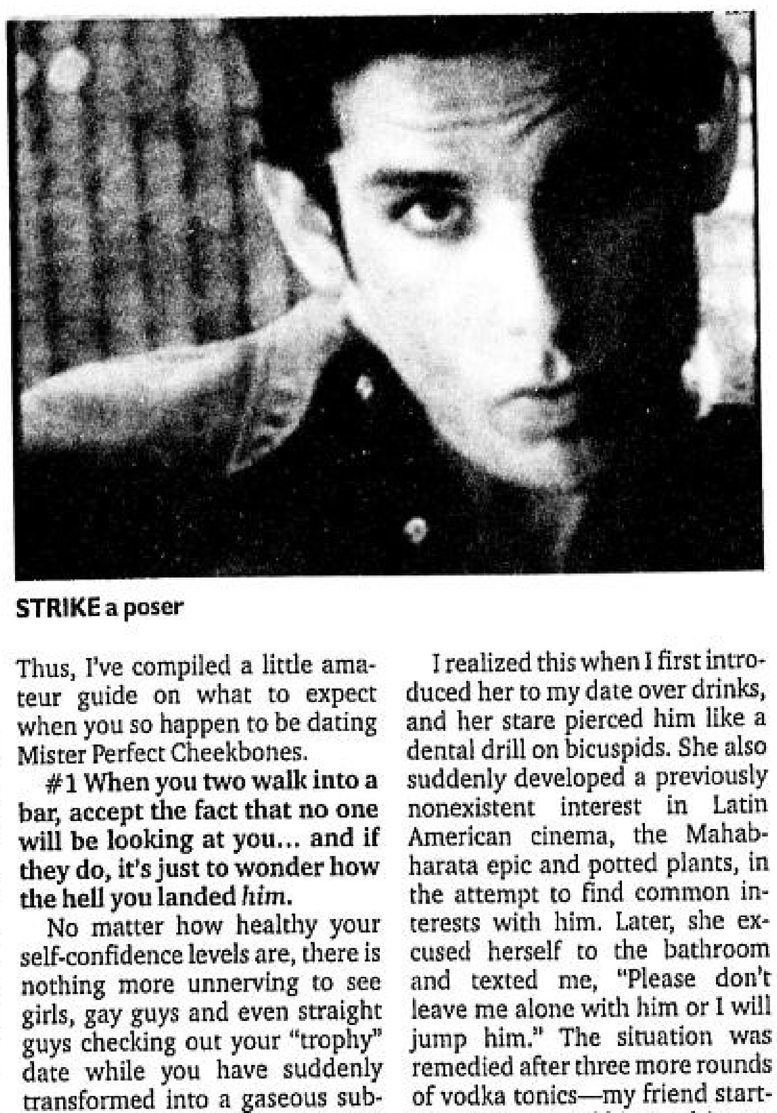
Then there was the time when another model complained to me, "They made me wait all day and I'm only getting P70,000 for it!" (Cut again to: me calculating in my head how many thousands of articles I'd have to write over the years to even come close to that amount.) Call it a reverse form of snobbery, but for a while I actually lumped all these pretty boys as either full of themselves, or full of sh*t. Besides, I'd take cool over hot any day.

Eye candy with filling

By the hideous hand of Fate, however, I did find myself at one time going out with a Zoolander. He was eye candy with substance. He spiced up dinner conversations with a wicked sense of humor, relevant quotes from Garcia Marquez, arthouse film discussions including the hidden symbolisms in "Before Sunset," and fascinating tidbits on Tibetan Buddhism. Jumpin' Jehovah's witnesses, could it be? He was actually hot *and* cool at the same time!

The trouble in paradise began when I was suddenly sucked into an alternate universe that I'd never ventured into before. For one, my best male friends started excusing themselves from gimmicks a bit earlier than usual. My female friends, on the other hand, suddenly channeled pre-pubescent, giggling schoolgirls whenever we were out. And for the first time in my life, the fear of getting dark undereye circles was actually a sustainable reason to call it a night at 9 p.m. on a Saturday.

I was in a bizarre world indeed.



STRIKE a poser

Thus, I've compiled a little amateur guide on what to expect when you so happen to be dating Mister Perfect Cheekbones.

#1 When you two walk into a bar, accept the fact that no one will be looking at you... and if they do, it's just to wonder how the hell you landed *him*.

No matter how healthy your self-confidence levels are, there is nothing more unnerving to see girls, gay guys and even straight guys checking out your "trophy" date while you have suddenly transformed into a gaseous substance. Certain nightspots in the city are notorious in fact for being peopled with overly flirtatious females who see no shame in bumpin' and grindin' your partner even as you stand merely inches away in aghast. Oh right, lest you forget, you're vapor.

#2 Be wary of leaving your date with your best friend.

Even if you and your best female bud grew up melded at the hipbone, be mindful that she is still a creature of estrogen and that makes her as trustworthy as Michael Jackson in an orphanage.

I realized this when I first introduced her to my date over drinks, and her stare pierced him like a dental drill on bicuspids. She also suddenly developed a previously nonexistent interest in Latin American cinema, the Mahabharata epic and potted plants, in the attempt to find common interests with him. Later, she excused herself to the bathroom and texted me, "Please don't leave me alone with him or I will jump him." The situation was remedied after three more rounds of vodka tonics—my friend started seeing two of him and it was officially a double date.

#3 You suddenly have more gay friends than usual.

Even if you're a certified fag hag, the presence of a handsome arm accessory will ensure that you will be surrounded by an assemblage of Wills and Jacks when you're out. So much for painting the town red, expect it to be more like a shade of cherry pink.

Take note, however, that the sudden influx of the fairy sex may not necessarily be from your side of the friend fence. In your man's industry, gay guys are kings, er... queens of the kingdom and as such be prepared to hang with his stylist, fashion director, fashion director's boyfriend, production assistant and social scene chronicler. This is not a bad thing, for being in such gayer-than-Christmas company usually ensures a spleen-busting, unforgettable night. It may even be an ego booster, for in between their harmless flirtations with your guy will come surreptitious nudges and whispered congratulatory approvals, usually worded as, "*Ang ganda ng lola moh*!!!"

#4 But suddenly, your best male friends are nowhere to be found.

It doesn't matter if your new boy toy sincerely wants to meet your best male posse to bond over beers. It's a near impossible feat to assimilate your mate into the fold.

For one, guys don't like being talked down to—literally. Being beside another male who is obviously the visual target of every other female in a party is not exactly a guy's idea of fun, either. And it doesn't bode too well for their egos when they're chugging six packs while your guy *sports* a six-pack. Forgive your ol' friends then for excusing themselves early with lame excuses like having to change the aquarium filter, or needing to catch "The Fifth Wheel" on cable.

#5 Be prepared to find more grooming products in his bathroom sink than your wildest dreams. And don't be shocked to find yourself sharing make-up either.

My life took on a whole new level of meaning when I discovered the benefits of Bed Head hair wax, undereye gel, after-sun cooling spray and moisturizing spritzers, products which he claimed to have been given to him for free. I then questioned the presence of a range of foundation creams and concealers lined neatly in his bathroom cabinet. He could only sheepishly mumble, "It's for work. Try the Natural Tan mousse."

#6 Accept the fact, with utmost dignity, that he may be half-naked around beautiful girls all the time—for work.

It's immensely character-building: acknowledging that no matter how many hours you spend prepping yourself up to look good, the chick he shot a commercial with the day before will still be way hotter than you.

It's also trust-building: When he shows up with two girls who look like they just stepped off the catwalk and introduces them as "friends he met through work," it's the truth. It's also humility-building. No explanation necessary.

#7 If you ever happen to get into a public conflict where physical contact will be involved, chances are that it'll be you who'll fight the aggressor. Your date can't afford to have a black eye, after all.

It happened outside a club one night. Some psycho chick accused my date's other model friend of cheating on her. So his friend, instead of coming to him for help, instead came to *me* to suddenly channel Buffy and slay the crazed, jealous *lunachick*.

I didn't think twice about confronting her, imagining pulling out some kickboxing moves (or maybe just pulling her hair) if she made the first move. I did think thrice, however, when the whole fiasco was over and they thanked me for saving them from having bruises on their flawless faces, which would have surely made them fail the next day's VTR.

#8 When out having dinner, your meal plates will usually look like a rainforest compared to his three salad leaves.

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Check in at the Super! Hotel

And win a date with one of these Axe girls . . . spend their cash, too!

By Pepe Diokno and James Gabrillo

RULES: Roll a dice and ...

1. Each player gets a kiss mark at the start of the game.
2. When you land on an Axe girl, you may choose whether or not to give her the kiss mark.
3. If another player lands on a girl who has your kiss mark, he must surrender his kiss mark to you.

COME (IN)
Please wipe every time you come

PARKING LOT
Look left—it's Piolo! Look right—it's Baron! Stay on this square and play dead.

LOBBY
Spread some love to Paula MacCormac!

FIRST FLOOR
Chico and Delamar getting married. Chico asks you to be his bridesmaid. Skip a turn

SECOND FLOOR
Melanie Marquez in Level 1 English remedial classes. She asks you to help her pronounce "catty." Skip two turns 'cause she isn't gonna get it

ELEVATOR
Meet and greet Gretchen Barreto! Smile and say, "Ms Barretto, I love your pearls"—then run away and never look back. Advance 3 spaces... backwards

THIRD FLOOR
Korina Sanchez—oh, so *here's* where she's hiding! Stay put, 'cause nothing's gonna happen anyway

FOURTH FLOOR
Vicki Belo testing her products on herself. She turns to you and says, "Guinea pig... are you the guinea pig the concierge sent for my new knee shaver?" Say yes because... it's Vicki Belo! Skip a turn

BAR
Anne Curtis trying on her new lines. She approaches you and says, "Can I hold your cocktail for you?" You may roll on the next turn because it really isn't Anne Curtis—it's Vicki Belo! (She went up.)

FIFTH FLOOR
Hey, it's Pia Cayetano... not doing anything. You may advance to the pool for some sign of life

POOL
Swim with Ayanna Oliva!

SIXTH FLOOR
It's Shaina Magdayao getting her braces fixed! You may ignore her like everyone else and advance to the next square

SEVENTH FLOOR
Blow away Bubbles Paraiso!

EIGHTH FLOOR
The hosts of the now-defunct show, "Out!" doing things you do not want to see. Go three spaces back (that's actually a good thing)

NINTH FLOOR
The hosts of "Master Showman" doing housekeeping and room service. They hand you a key to the Grand Ballroom. Advance one space

GRAND BALLROOM
Waltz with Rashel Piazza!

TENTH FLOOR
Maurice Arcache dressing up for the show in the Casino. Advance two spaces and enjoy the show

ELEVENTH FLOOR
Gabby Lopez controlling... minds. Give in—it's a Lopez. Go back to where he sent Korina Sanchez, though

CASINO
It's, it's, it's... Pilita Corales and Kuh Ledesma! Skip a turn—it's gonna be a looooong show

THE PENTHOUSE
Fly away with Angel Locsin!

1

PAULA MacCormac not only enjoys hanging out with friends, but also likes spending time curled up with a book

2

AYANNA Oliva exudes fun and is the epitome of a contemporary girl on the go. She loves dancing and singing, and is a TV jock

3

BUBBLES Paraiso is a shopaholic cheerdancer who confesses to be childish at times but is certain about some qualities that are considerably mature

4

RASHEL Piazza loves to dance and sing R&B tunes

5

ANGEL Locsin. 'Nuff said

FIVE young men get the chance to go on a P500,000 shopping spree with the girl of their dreams in the latest Axe campaign. For more info, log on to www.axe.com.ph or text "AXE" to 2955

3: You suddenly have more gay friends than usual

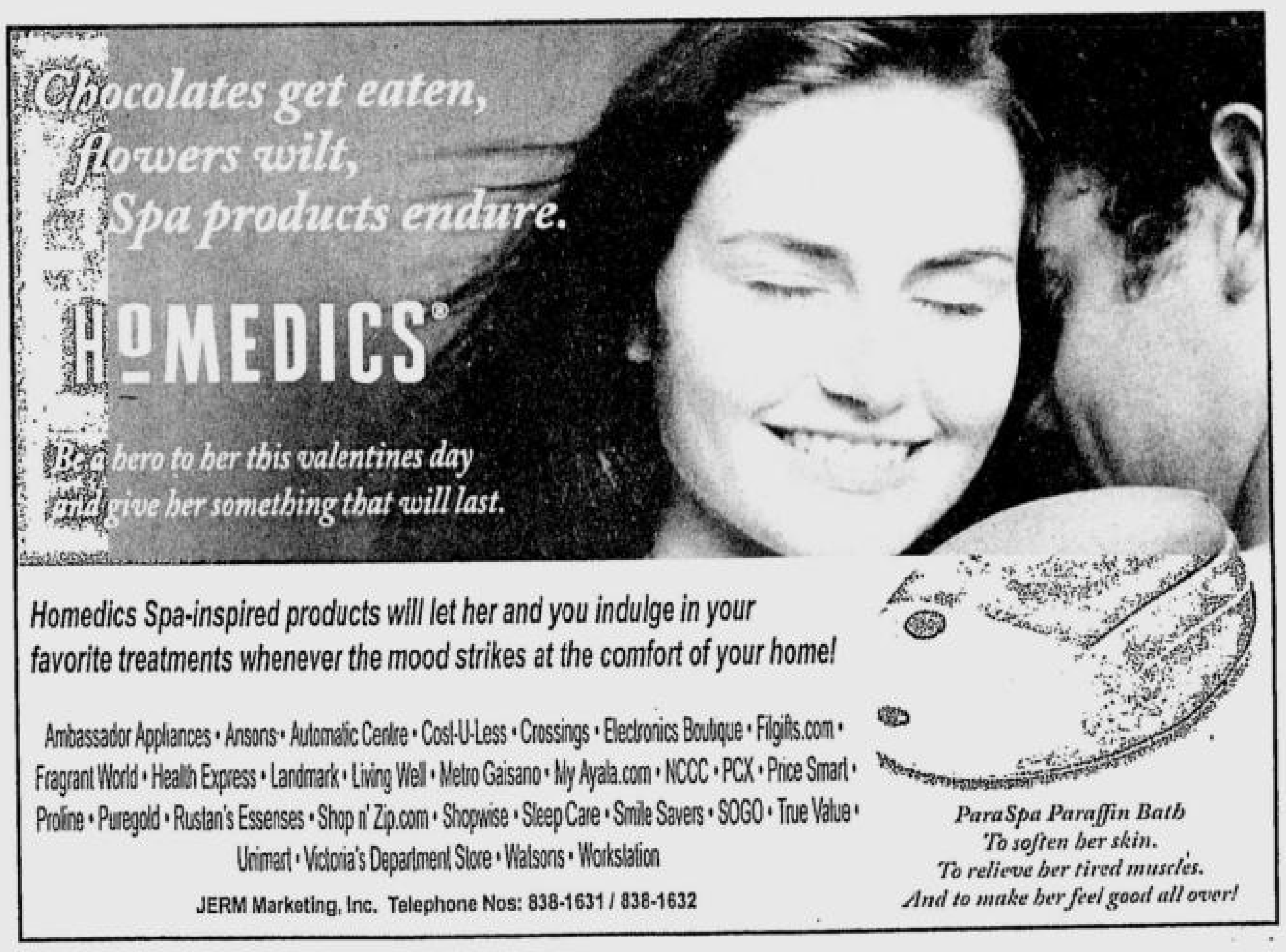
needs to watch his weight,
all. A few extra pounds is
plied tenfold on TV and print.
Don't feel bad if he has to
ent. to exotic locales like
co, while you'll be off to
co, Pampanga.
eemingly harmless call from his agency on his mobile phone can be enough to throw a monkey wrench on your weekend plans. After all, getting sent to Puerto Vallarta and Colombia will still be infinitely more appealing than Puerto Galera and Calamba.

#10 If the relationship is short-lived, console yourself that it was worth the experience, and you can finally go back into a semi-normal life.

I didn't expect it to last; his agency took him off the Asian circuit and he was sent to the other side of the earth.

But all's well in the end-chapter. For you're now enhanced with the gravity-defying properties of hair wax, you know which is your best angle when posing for photos, and what prints best flatter your figure. Plus, you've got your male friends back, your best female friend is finally cured of the giggles and you've got a whole new network of gay friends. And at some point, when you come across his face plastered on a billboard, it's kinda cool to say, "hey, I know him."

E-mail the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com



Chocolates get eaten, flowers wilt, Spa products endure.

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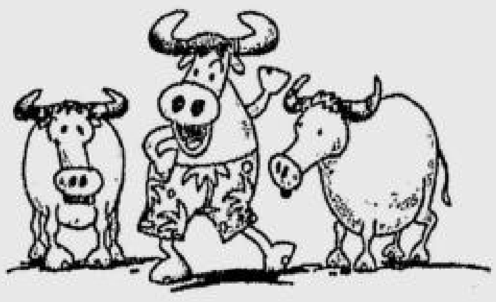

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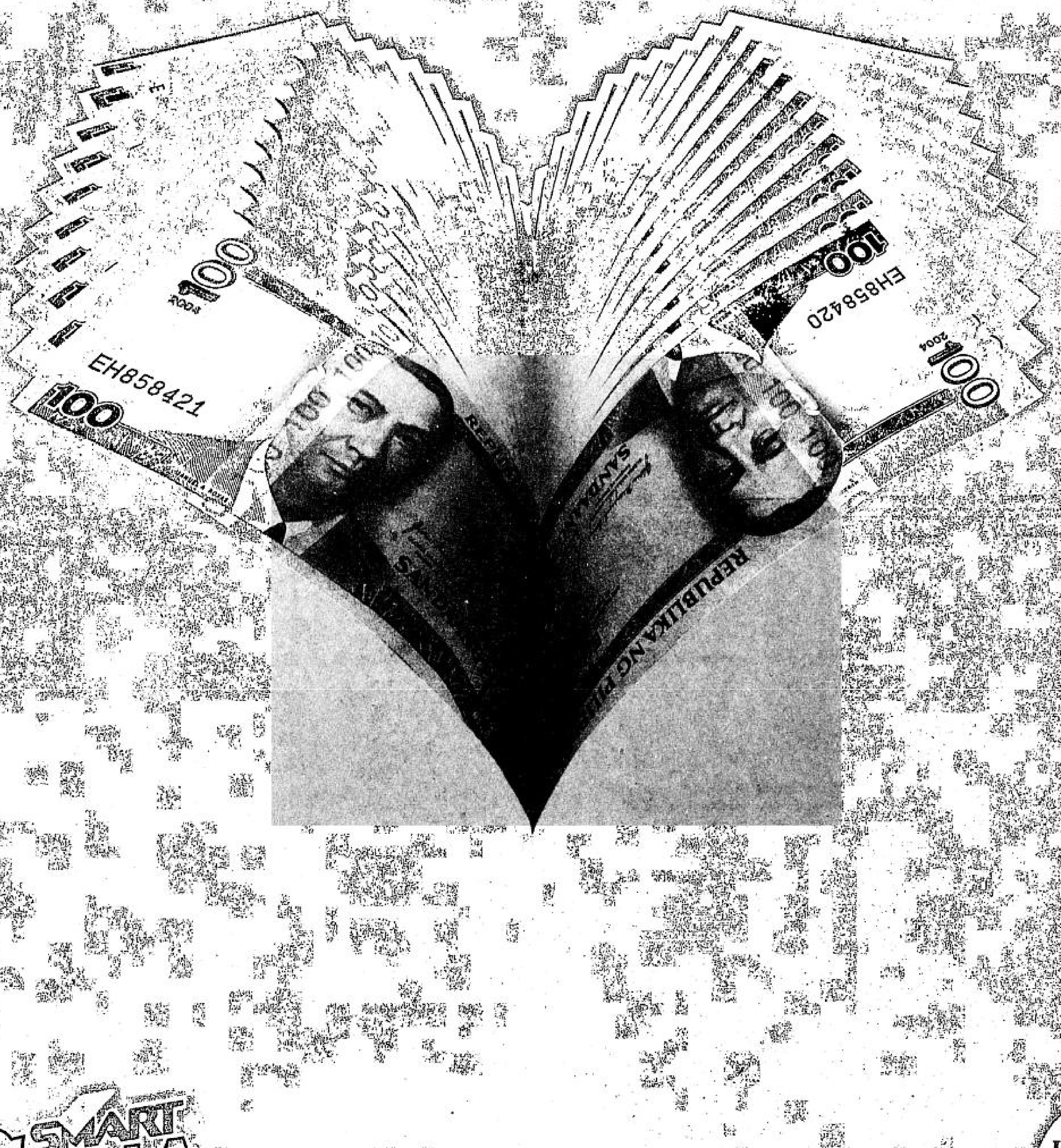
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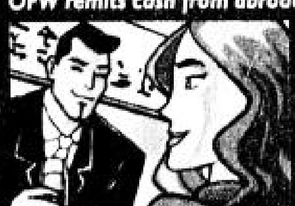

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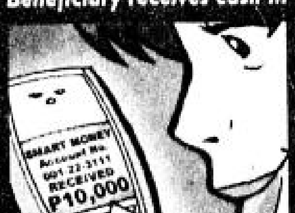
SMART MONEY
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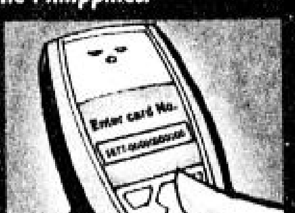
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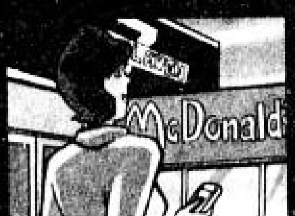

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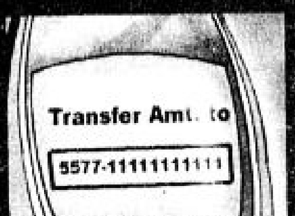
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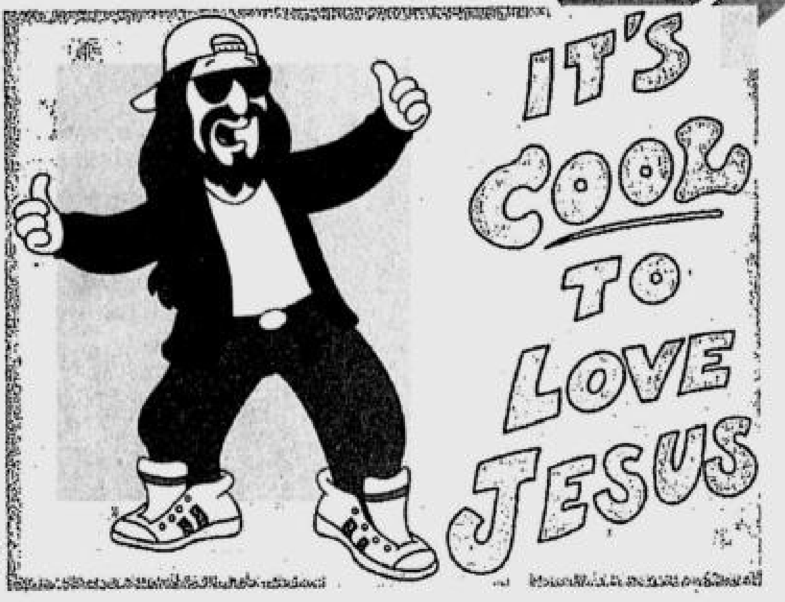
Who would Jesus date?

Good question. If Valentine's Day is all about love and Jesus is all about love, shouldn't Valentine's Day be all about Jesus?


IT'S COOL TO LOVE JESUS

Age against the machine

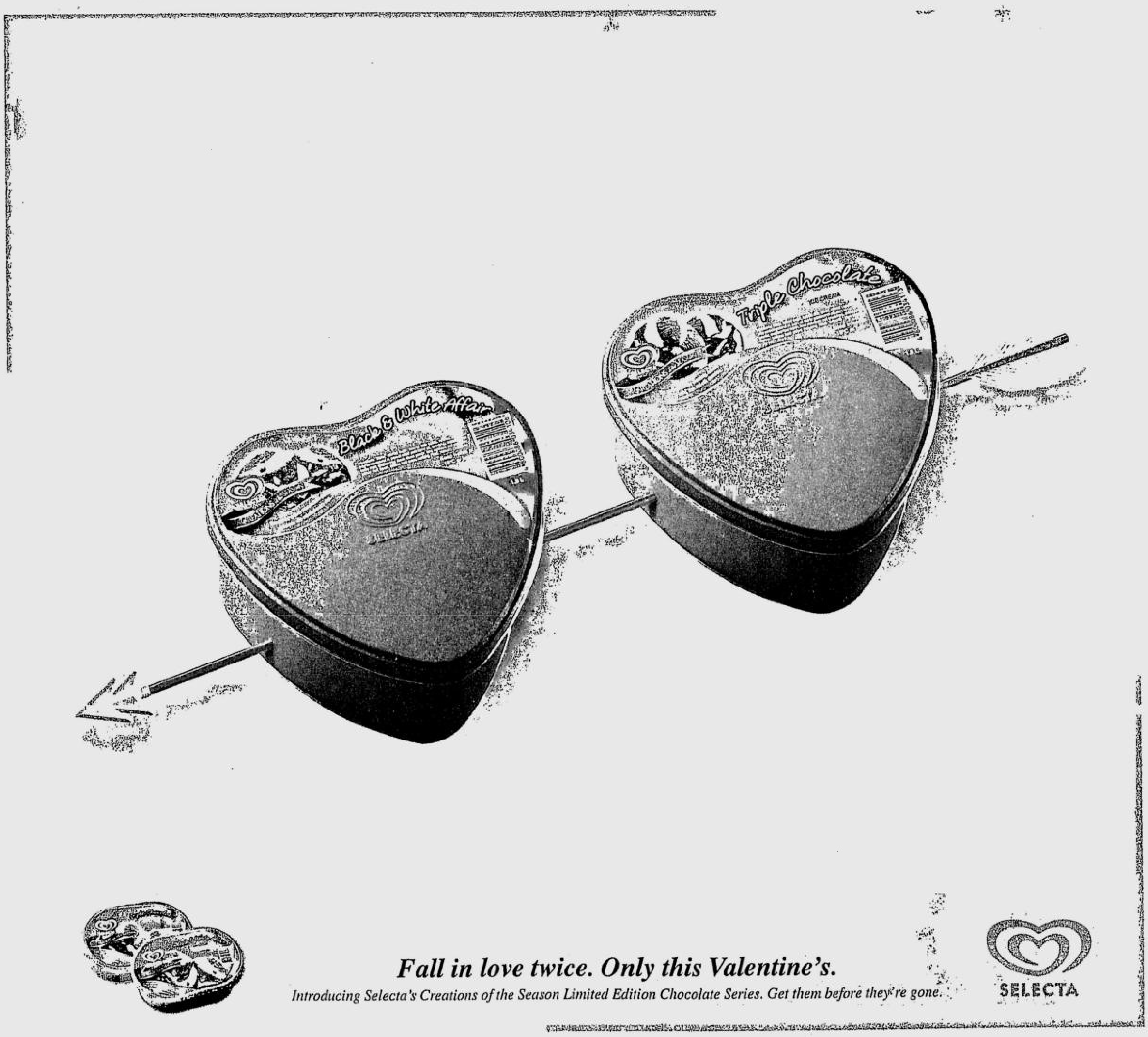
Gino de la Paz

NOT SO long ago, like, in early 2004, Jesus Christ led an extremely low-key—almost boring—suburban life. He'd get up in the morning, knock back an overpriced Starbucks soy latte, and drive to work in a weather-beaten 1991 Nissan Sentra. The economy hadn't picked up post-9/11 and it wasn't kind even to experienced miracle workers like Him. Hey kids, it's time for a parable!

Like any struggling, day-jobless thirtysomething in California, Jesus' dream was to become a star. And just like Joey Tribbiani in "Friends," He had an agent but not a very good one. Jesus was denied roles in some pretty edgy films simply because there wasn't a huge demand for actors with His shtick—a soul-saving, Aramaic-speaking bible-thumper who calls Himself The One. (Keanu "Rigor Mortis" Reeves had already bagged the lead in "The Matrix" years before. Boo.)

To date, He unsuccessfully tried out to play a dude who screwed a pie (went to Jason Biggs), an obnoxious host of a hidden camera show (went to Ashton Kutcher), a celebutante-

WHO WOULD/ F3



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HEART SHAPED STRAWBERRY BUTTERCREAM CAKE

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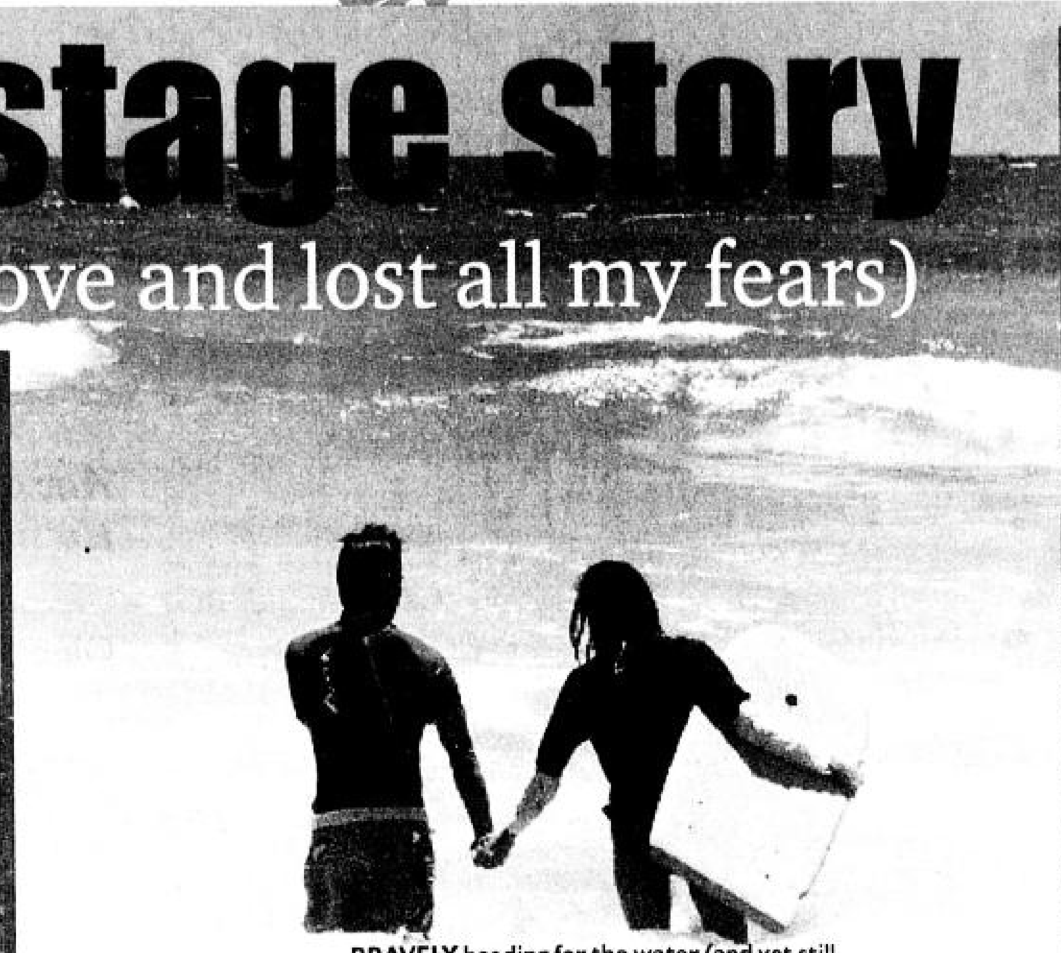
How Thoughtful. How *Pinoy*.

A backstage story

(Or how I fell in love and lost all my fears)



BRAVELY heading for the water (and yet still holding my hand) to go body boarding at Trigg Beach in Perth, Australia.

AT THE PINNACLES. Perth's version of the Stonehenge

THE PYRAMIDS at the Giza

WANNA HUMP? Camel riding in Cairo, Egypt

Beyond the Runway

Raya Mananquil

AT THE MTV Style Awards

SAMAR lovin' at the beach

WEAR it loud and proud! T-shirt made by Corey

THERE are some things in life worth doing. Fall in love. Face your fears. Travel around the world. Fortunately for me, I have done all those with the man I have fallen in love with.

I met him backstage at a fashion show. The producers were serving models beef for lunch, and I was a starving vegetarian desperately looking for something to eat. One of my colleagues told me that there was another model vegetarian with a bag of peanuts. Pleasantly surprised that aside from the fact I finally had something to consume, there actually existed a male vegetarian. And so we started talking about our philosophies, values and beliefs about vegetarianism as I happily chewed on the peanuts. Well, if you ask him his version on how we met, he would simply say, "She went up to me and grabbed my nuts!"

On our first date, he asked me to go wakeboarding with him at Lake Caliraya. I reluctantly agreed with a hefty amount of trepidation partly because it was a first date, but mainly because I was extremely hydrophobic. (But yes, I do take showers.)

To my relief, wakeboarding required a life vest and little swimming skills. Nevertheless, I was tremendously nervous due to my over-active imagination that an alligator might devour me. My determination to stay on the wakeboard was not so much to impress, but to make sure I do not fall back into the water!

The story on how he and I officially got together is slightly hazy. But it was after a few vegetarian dinners and a fashion show later that he mustered the courage to reveal his sentiments towards me, and how unsure he was if the feelings were reciprocated. At that moment, I knew that a plant-based diet, compassion for animals and a zeal to save the environment weren't the only things we had in common… "I like you too." And so, like a happy 10-year-old child at Christmastime he threw his arms up in the air and responded, "Yay!"

From there, we seemed to be on top of and all around the world—both literally and metaphorically. Thanks to the wonderful perks of modeling, we were able to go on a cruise to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and most recently, Egypt courtesy of PR-guru Keren Pascual.

You see, I have this list of things I have to do before I die. One of them was to go bungee jumping. In Thailand last November 2004, he and I were walking on the streets of Phuket when we were approached by a man who asked, "Bungee jumping?" We jumped on his tuk-tuk, arrived at the bungee jumping place, and both signed the disclaimer forms. And oh yes, did I mention that I am also acrophobic? But there I went, and faced my fear.

Now another thing in my list of must-dos was to go to Egypt. How awesome was it that it just so happened to be my birthday on the day we were scheduled to see the pyramids at Giza and the Sphinx. But days before that, we took a cruise along the Nile River. Unfortunately for me and our other Filipino friends in the group, there was this one particular cheeky housekeeping staff onboard. Aside from the fact that this man would flirt with me and the other women (and men!), he would invade our privacy by knocking on our doors and entering our rooms, even sitting on our beds.

But the instance that infuriated my boyfriend was when I had told him that this man was taking my room key, insisting that he would give me a "visit" later in the night and asking for me to kiss him. (Which I irately refused, naturally!) Oh boy, did this poor fellow get it from my boyfriend! After a series of my boyfriend banging this guy against the wall, I was almost sure that he wanted to throw the cad out into the Nile. That was the first time in my life I have ever seen him so angry.

You'd think that you would get to see that other side of a person after traveling together for a month. But strangely enough, he and I haven't really fought with each other. Sure, we've had a few small misunderstandings, but never the impulsive quarrels. It was when we both went to Perth, Australia, for a month to visit his family and spend Christmas and the New Year with them.

Now for me, this was like, oh-my-God-I'm-going-to-meet-the-parents sort of thing, you know? Well, let me tell you what wonderful and genuine people they are. From being a nervous wreck, I became a little more at ease. Phew. I can breathe now. Little did I know I had more to overcome in this holiday. This is the part where our misunderstanding comes in. You see, being the cowardly hydrophobic that I am, I could not swim to save my life—literally.

It was one day at the beach when he asked me to come into the water with him. No way, Jose. There was a shark sighting just a few days ago, for cryin' out loud. He was obviously disappointed when I had simply refused. In fact I told him that hydrophobia is a fear I don't mind NOT overcoming. In short, I would rather eat meat than learn how to swim. (Okay, maybe not.)

But then came his response that triggered a change of heart, "Raya, if one day our plane crashes or if our boat sinks and you die drowning… you are going to rob me of so many happy years together with you." Sniff. Sob. Enroll me in swimming lessons, darn it! Soon enough, my former-lifeguard boyfriend was teaching me a few strokes in their swimming pool. Yet another fear faced. Take that, H_2O!

Another thing in life worth doing: Write a cheesy, sappy and romantic poem, song or story for your special someone. Having it published in a major national newspaper optional. Don't be shy; it is February 14 after all. Happy Valentine's Day, Corey!

Model units open for viewing

Interview by Tim Yap
Photo By Tom Epperson

FRESH out of their respective New York schools, model couple Robby Mananquil and Val Delos Santos take time out of their busy schedules to answer the Super! guestbook.

Robby Mananquil

The thing about fame is that... it's overrated.

The thing I love most about what I do is... it opens doors to new opportunities.

People might be surprised to know that... I can do the moonwalk.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that... live life to the fullest... I don't know if I'll die tomorrow.

I wish when I started off I've been told... that we live in a sugar coated world.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was... being stabbed in the back.

And what taught this to me was... friends come and go, only a precious few will remain.

The secret to happiness is... being content with all your blessings.

My best ever outfit consisted of... a fake mustache and a cigar.

My Super! Saturday night consists of... spending the whole night with my significant other.

The soundtrack to my life would include... "Buang" by Kabutehan, "In My Life" by The Beatles, "Gorecki" By Lamb and "Home" by Depeche Mode.

The best thing about family is that... they are the best link to our past and they're the people who'll most likely stick with us in the future.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say... he was a man for others.

If money was no option... we'd all be doing the things that make us happiest in life.

When I retire, I would like... to have the chance to go to outer space.

The world would be a much better place if... money didn't make the world go round.

My heroes are... my parents.

The things that make my life worth living... are the blessing from up above, my family and my soulmate.

My greatest hope for the future is... peace on earth.

My most embarrassing moment was when... I was nine years old, I broke my right arm while showing new skateboard tricks to girls.

I'm saving up for... my next trip abroad.

My biggest indulgence is... food, food, food! I love all kinds of food!

My current state of mind is... bliss.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be... Ben Stiller.

My five favorite words are... life, love, loss, humanity, humility.

Valerie Delos Santos

The thing about fame is that... it can turn your head into one big hot air balloon.

The thing I love most about what I do is... that I get to meet a lot of new friends and the chance to travel.

People might be surprised to know that... I was part of the girls' basketball team back in high school.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that... everything happens for a reason.

I wish when I started off I've been told... not to be too trusting of other people.

The secret to happiness is... realizing that the most beautiful thing you could ever have is what you have right now.

My best ever outfit consisted of... my birthday suit. *Hehe.*

My Super! Saturday night consists of... watching DVDs at home with Robby.

The soundtrack to my life would include... "No Ordinary Morning" by Chicane, "Gorecki" by Lamb, "Home" by Depeche Mode, "Buang" (a song that Robby composed for me) and 'Stellar' by Incubus.

If I was invisible for a day, I would... go to all my favorite stores and shoplift! Hahaha!

The thing that makes me most angry is... backstabbers and people that can't shut up and just mind their own business.

If I was the most powerful person on earth... I would stop corruption.

The best thing about family is that... they will always be there for you no matter what.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say... she was a person who loved life.

If money was no option... I'd still work hard.

When I retire, I would like... to live in a house by the beach..

The world would be a much better place if... there was no poverty.

My heroes are... my parents.

The thing that makes my life worth living is... the whole experience of life itself. The laughter, tears, pain... everything.

My greatest hope for the future is... world peace. *Hehehe.*

The worst thing somebody said about me was... hmmm, I'd rather not say.

My favorite moments are when... I'm with Robby. He always makes me feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

My most embarrassing moment was... when I fell on my butt onstage during a fashion show. My skirt went up over my head and I heard the crowd gasp. The worst part was I had to go back to the end of the ramp and smile as if nothing happened.

My biggest indulgence is... dessert.

My current state of mind is... bliss.

If someone would play me in my biopic, it would be... Gisele Bundchen. Hahaha. I wish.

My five favorite words are... love, happiness, trust, respect and compassion.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Super

Who would Jesus date?

From page F1

gone-wild (went to Nicole Ritchie) and a kid who saw dead people (Jesus really could, no doubt, but He didn't pass for an 11-year-old even with makeup—part went to Haley Joel Osment). This series of rejections could've messed up our Messiah but thank God (well, so to speak), it didn't. Yay!

Instead of turning to prescription drugs or parting the Red Sea to relieve His anxiety, Jesus Christ spent His days answering prayers. The bulk of which, at the time, were video requests for Usher's comeback single "Yeah." (Somehow, mail for MTV's TRL wound up in His inbox. Moving on…)

Taking His mind off the scriptures long enough to think of a plan, Jesus considered taking His act to Vegas to give garden-variety magicians Siegfried and Roy some real competition. When that bottomed out, though, He enlisted the help of Yahweh but that merely resulted in a stint at a call center. (It would've been cool except Christ kept answering "Hi, this is Jesus speaking. How can I save you today?" That freaked callers out.)

Bogged down with self-doubt, Jesus went through the motions of having a job as opposed to actually having one. He's turned the other cheek countless times already so what will He tell the guys at the next high school reunion? That He's still living miracle-to-miracle? All that changed when Jesus Christ met Mel Gibson.

From Profound Loner to Ultimate Pinup

Jesus Christ was on His way home from bartending a Vanity Fair Young Hollywood after-party (Water-into-Merlot for everyone!) when the star of "Braveheart" and "Lethal Weapon" handed Him a script for a by-the-book movie adaptation of His life. Entitled "The J.C.," the brick-thick screenplay was about Jesus' years as a brooding, tank-top-wearing teenage rebel. In fact, "The J.C." traced His roots from Chino to His new life with the pseudo-Jewish Cohen family in Orange County. (The film treatment included a star-crossed encounter with a certain Marissa Cooper, who was supposed to be played by ex-9021-ho Shannen Doherty.) Hmmm. It sounded eerily like something Jesus had already seen on Fox so He sat Mel down for an on-the-spot anointing, commanding him to do a rewrite. "*Badabing badaboom!*" "The Passion of The Christ" instantly came to light.

Being the Son of God, Jesus Christ was extremely professional. Production of "The Passion" was fast-tracked, wrapping up after a record three and a half minutes. Despite an unplayable part and a dialogue entirely in Hebrew, Aramaic and Latin, Jesus Christ totally nailed it. (Sorry for the pun. Oops.) Briefly swapping His halo for a trucker cap, Jesus then went through the final edit with Mel, declared it "The greatest story ever told," and immediately gave it the green light.

In the run up to "The Passion's" release, however, a few smartypants said the movie was too gory and anti-Semitic. That prompted a bloodthirsty public to watch it even more. (Mel's bank account thanks you!) Earning more than half a billion dollars in box office returns, "The Passion of The Christ" became the toast of the evangelical indie scene because of its covert ninja-style break-in into the movie-making mainstream. Suddenly, Mel Gibson was forgiven for "What Women Want" and Jesus Christ became a dreamy Superstar, worth another 2000 years of Bible studies and His very own "E! True Hollywood Story."

"The Passion of the Christ" was engineered to be Jesus' solo bungee jump into the public eye, a one-time dive followed by a bounce back into anonymity. But the world, unexpectedly gripped by religious fervor, accorded Jesus a fair amount of respect and considered Him their new Homeboy. Hosanna to the highest, y'all.

Eucharistic celebration

As the "It" Son of Man, Jesus became hot ticket and offers to play the next James Bond, SuperMan and Batman soon came flying His way. Likewise, endorsements for the South Beach Diet, ("Man does not live on bread alone"), merchandising (Tickle Me Jesus), a thriving magazine (Jesus Christ Living) and a makeover show ("The Jesus Eye for the Sinful Guy") ensured His development as an ecumenical brand. On the side, Jesus also partnered up with a longstanding enemy to build a fitness empire called Pontius Pilates.

With Jesus' newfound fame and eternal glory, the paparazzi were all over Him. *Jesus seen with the Olsen twins at Eucharistic celebration!* (Anorexia sold separately.) *Jesus performs plastic surgery with bare hands!* (A passage of note for "Nip/Tuck" devotees.) *Jesus calls Madonna 'Mother'!* (Did I just use a metaphor?)

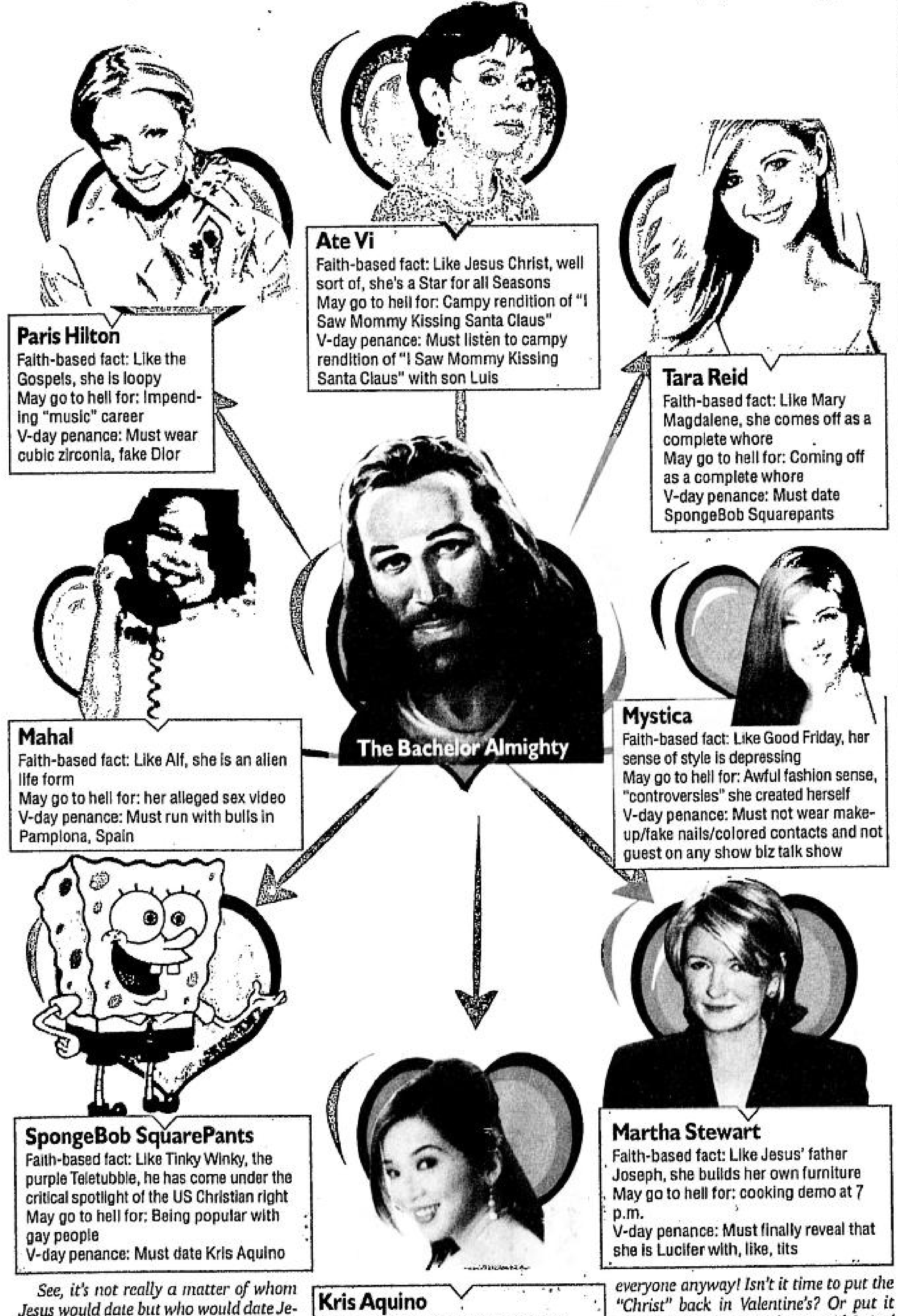
Of course, in-between dying yearly and coming back to life in the spring, Jesus never forgot to answer His fan mail. The majority of which, by now, were requests for Brad and Jen to reunite for the sake of perfect babies and/or so the world could turn again. At the same time (among prayer requests to save little Jamie-Lynn Spears from the limited critical faculties of older sister Britney) Jesus received various Friendster invites and, most important, questions regarding His romantic life. Ah, to be a Bachelor Almighty.

Jesus loves you

As if I haven't angered enough conservative people with what I have written thus far, the following might even get me into more trouble. Sorry to circle back to this but really, the power of love (and parody) compels me to continue even if it seems like I'm making a trend out of something the world takes really seriously.

Based on its inherent message, Christmas is to Jesus as Valentine's Day is to…Jesus. Or at least it should be. Forget the fact that Theology has taught us about virgins who get pregnant through birds or that Hallmark has turned Easter into a day to glue glitter on hard-boiled eggs and hide them to confuse children. It's the weekend before Valentine's, people, so let's talk about love. More specifically, Jesus' love, which is really about second chances if you think about it. Awww.

So focusing our attention and matchmaking abilities on the world of entertainment, can Jesus Christ's divine intervention lead to a career renewal for these wayward personalities? Now that He's a megawatt Hollywood celebrity, who would Jesus *elimidate* from the pop culture dating pool?


The Bachelor Almighty

Paris Hilton
Faith-based fact: Like the Gospels, she is loopy
May go to hell for: Impending "music" career
V-day penance: Must wear cubic zirconia, fake Dior

Ate Vi
Faith-based fact: Like Jesus Christ, well sort of, she's a Star for all Seasons
May go to hell for: Campy rendition of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
V-day penance: Must listen to campy rendition of "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" with son Luis

Tara Reid
Faith-based fact: Like Mary Magdalene, she comes off as a complete whore
May go to hell for: Coming off as a complete whore
V-day penance: Must date SpongeBob Squarepants

Mahal
Faith-based fact: Like Alf, she is an alien life form
May go to hell for: her alleged sex video
V-day penance: Must run with bulls in Pamplona, Spain

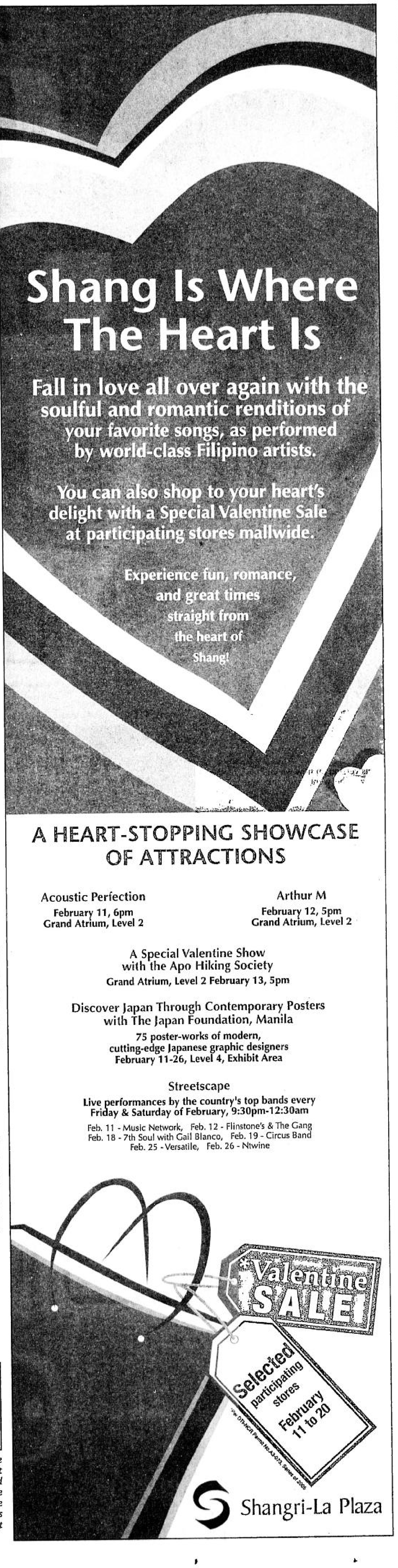
Mystica
Faith-based fact: Like Good Friday, her sense of style is depressing
May go to hell for: Awful fashion sense, "controversies" she created herself
V-day penance: Must not wear make-up/fake nails/colored contacts and not guest on any show biz talk show

SpongeBob SquarePants
Faith-based fact: Like Tinky Winky, the purple Teletubbie, he has come under the critical spotlight of the US Christian right
May go to hell for: Being popular with gay people
V-day penance: Must date Kris Aquino

Martha Stewart
Faith-based fact: Like Jesus' father Joseph, she builds her own furniture
May go to hell for: cooking demo at 7 p.m.
V-day penance: Must finally reveal that she is Lucifer with, like, tits

Kris Aquino
Faith-based fact: Like her mother Cory Aquino, she is a devout Catholic
May go to hell for: "Pido Dida," among others
V-day penance: Must join Angelica Jones in Channel 13 and then shut up

See, it's not really a matter of whom Jesus would date but who would date Jesus. Who cares if you're dateless on this day of hearts? Console yourself with the fact that—Warning: Hyperbolic religious commentary coming—you aren't alone and, in truth, have the ultimate companion…in Jesus Christ…who loves everyone anyway! Isn't it time to put the "Christ" back in Valentine's? Or put it since it's not there to begin with? And isn't it time for your heads to explode with all this complex analysis? If there are no further questions, this concludes your regular Saturday enlightenment session. Amen.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Experience fun, romance, and great times straight from the heart of Shang!

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Grand Atrium, Level 2

Arthur M
February 12, 5pm
Grand Atrium, Level 2

A Special Valentine Show
with the Apo Hiking Society
Grand Atrium, Level 2 February 13, 5pm

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75 poster-works of modern,
cutting-edge Japanese graphic designers
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Live performances by the country's top bands every
Friday & Saturday of February, 9:30pm-12:30am
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Feb. 18 - 7th Soul with Gail Blanco, Feb. 19 - Circus Band
Feb. 25 - Versatile, Feb. 26 - Ntwine

Valentine SALE!
Selected participating stores
February 11 to 20
*Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-013, Series of 2005

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Nokia 2600
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Nokia 9500	36,000	31,500	24,500	19,500	10,500	FREE
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Kapamilya strikes back?

Super! takes a glimpse at ABS-CBN's new shows

By Pepe Diokno and James Gabrillo

ABS-CBN's shows range from stupid to Willy Revillame. (Wait, same thing.) Now, we want to say this is a change for the best, like, we love the ABS-CBN complex, but well, it isn't.

They have 30 new shows—almost 0 new concepts. Don't they know that just changing titles and sets isn't gonna give them higher ratings? It's time for soul-searching, Kapamilyas. What do you think's really the problem with your network? It may be you.

Audience people, we present 10 of their gazillion new shows. Don't microwave the popcorn yet. The laughs are temporary.

Bora

"Bora" is supposed to be a comedy about The Hunks. (Looks funny already.) Now, it's also supposed to be set in "Bora"... cay, but it's actually just a set in ABS-CBN.

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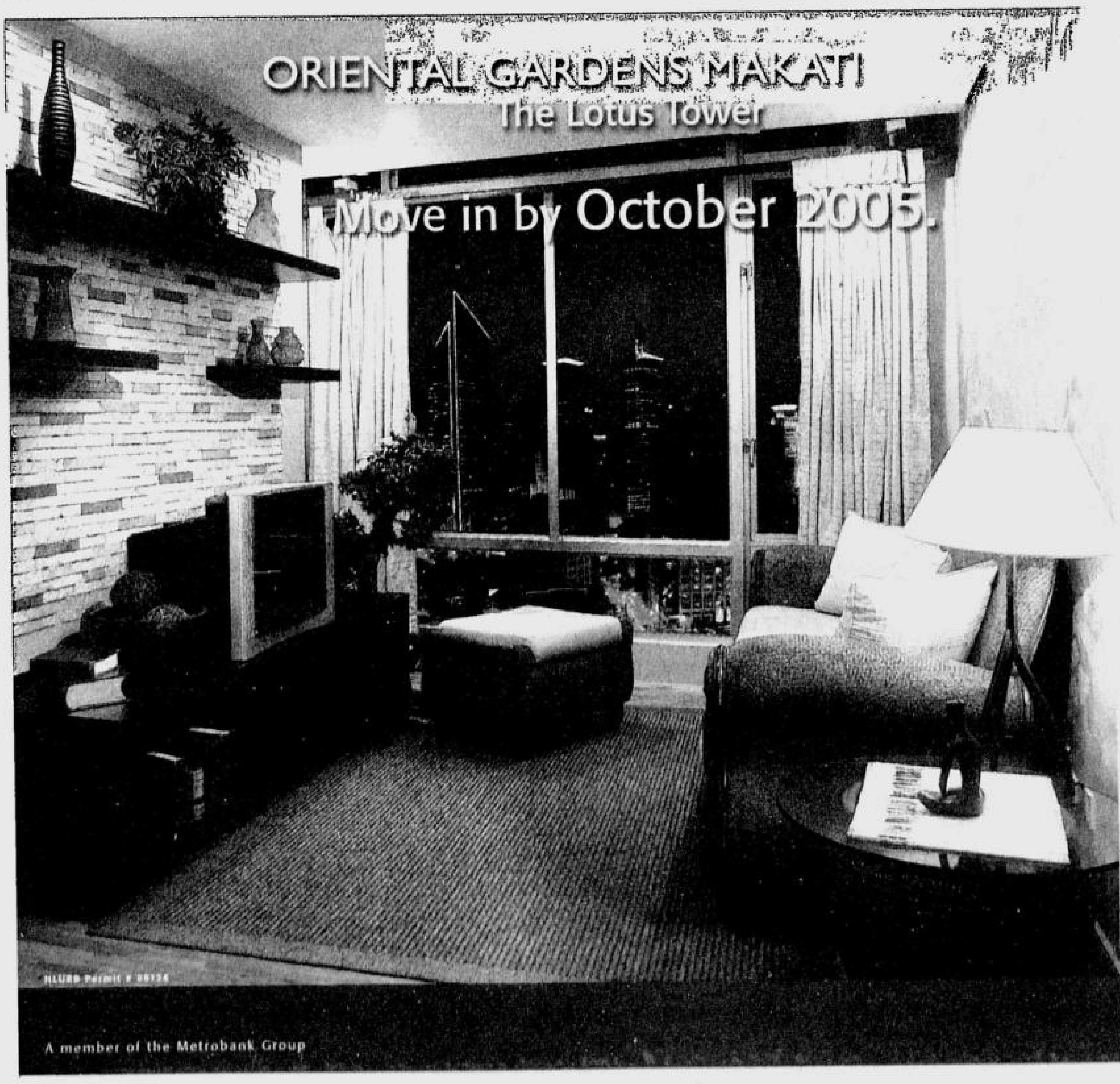

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Seven Slugs About The Racers

By James Gabrillo

James Gabrillo in Super! exclusive interviews with The Amazing Race contestants Jonathan & Victoria and Lori & Bolo

DAY SPA owner meets Playboy playmate

"I'M A BIG fan of 'The Am[illegible] Race' and it's [illegible] what they did to such a beautiful experience"

SQUABBLING across the world in the hopes of walking away with a cool million, Jonathan Baker raised viewer's temperatures of "The Amazing Race," now in its sixth season. The prey of what he said was haphazard editing, Jonathan looked like the predator for much of the race, leaving his wife Victoria Fuller in tears most of the time. But he's not regretting any of it. He shares, "I got to be a Jedi Master and a Super Hero for 30 days. What more could a boy ask for?"

1. If I ask Jonathan the wrong question, will he bite me?

Depends if he's racing or not, Jonathan tells me in a phone interview from Los Angeles. He describes himself as "a very strong competitor" and he thinks that the reason why I perceived him to "bite" if I ask off beam stuff was because an evil Jonathan was portrayed in the show.

"I don't like that person. I'm a better person. That's not a true representation of me or our relationship. I'm a big fan of 'The Amazing Race' and it's horrifying what they did to such a beautiful experience."

2. The pop artist painter and Playboy Playmate recalls the best part of her "Amazing Race" experience.

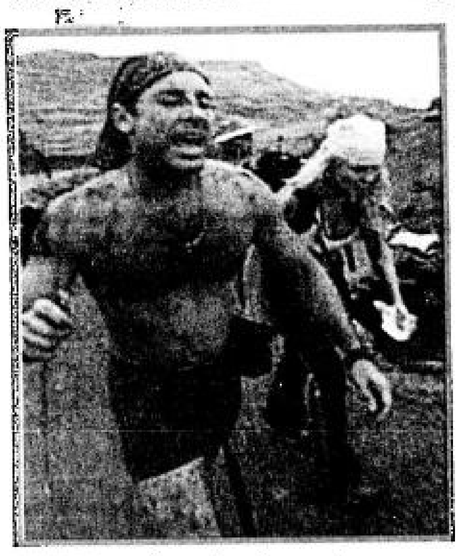
"Seeing the world and doing warp speed. It was like 'speed tourism' except more stressful. But even at the most uncomfortable, hungry, tired and stressful stages of the race, it was so much fun and when I got home I dreamt of the race. It was the most exciting time of my life, the adrenaline never stopped pumping until the race was over."

Being a Playmate, she talks about the biggest misconception about her: "People think my life's ambition is to be a movie star. I'm not sure why, I never talk about acting, they just assume all Playmates want to win an Oscar."

3. New Worst Moment Award

Victoria recalls that before the race, the worst moment in their relationship was when they had a fight on a trip to Miami and their entire argument was recorded after her cell phone accidentally dialed her mother's answering machine.

On the race, though, she says they found their new nastiest moment which was "so embarrassing and so stupid": The infamous Berlin pit stop where viewers witnessed the couple bickering, screaming, shoving, pushing and howling reminiscent of the world's reaction after watching "Gigli."


"LIKE 'speed tourism,' except more stressful"

4. What *really* happened during the "mandatory rest periods?"

The rest periods that were often 12 hours long were for making love, the couple shares.

Jonathan says, "They would always give us two separate beds in the hotel rooms. We wanted to be intimate but the beds were just too small!"

Victoria adds, "Even if we were tired, we tried to have time for it so we can say 'We had sex in Ethiopia! We had sex in Sweden!'"

5. Aww, they love Lori & Bolo.

"Lori's very intelligent and very smart. Their image was that they were both muscle heads and that they were doppy but they're really not. Together they're a sweet couple."

6. How 'bout the Philippines?

Jonathan, who says he "would be at the Playboy Mansion hanging out with the bunnies" if he wasn't in this interview, enthusiastically answers, "Absolutely. I think the people there are very friendly. It would be a great examination of different cultures. We're big fans of Asian countries and we were actually heartbroken that we didn't go there!"

7. Last words

What's next for the couple now that the race has ended? Jonathan, who owns a day spa in Los Angeles, has written and directed a film called "Fate" starring Kate Beckinsale, which will be released soon. Victoria is getting ready for a show in New York and has also shot a celebrity pictorial that will be out in two months.

How about having children?

"We talk about it all the time," says Jonathan. "But now that the race is over, a lot of things are coming our way."

"LORI'S just too feisty for me"

* * *

Interviewing married pro wrestlers Lori Harvey and Bolo Dar'Tainian was more fun than I expected. The couple, "Philiminated" during the Sri Lanka's Lion Rock leg of "The Amazing Race," was in high spirits getting a lot of interest from the international press.

Bolo, who wrestled for a little while for WWE as B.A.D., comes off as the "calmer" one in the relationship, and "calm" is good once you meet Lori.

Lori, described by her husband as a mix between Jennifer Aniston and pro-wrestler Chyna, bench presses 315 lbs. and was raised in diapers riding horses, growing up in a farm.

1. Drive Bolo mad by asking him questions that would not empower his masculinity.

When I asked who the boss really is, Bolo quickly (with a tinge of getting really infuriated lest I follow up with a question like "Bolo, how many times have you won Strongest Man Ever?") retorts, "It's me, man, isn't that obvious?!"

To which Lori, known for consuming the male species in the show (reminiscent of Flo and her boyfriend-slash-servant Zach), immediately counters with "Yeah, right."

The husband, showing signs of being overpowered yet again for the 678th time says, "She's just too feisty for me."

2. The next statement is a paid advertisement care of the couple.

People, Lori wants to pose for Playboy. And as of the interview, there were no offers. She recalls, "I wanted to be in Playboy ever since I was 18. My brothers had Playboy and I would love looking at the pictures and I would say to myself, 'Oooh! I want to do that!'"

The husband, showing signs of being overpowered yet again for the 679th time, says, "I really don't want many guys looking at my woman, but that's what she wants. So no problem."

3. Lori loves to describe people with contradicting adjectives.

The issue was fellow contestant Jonathan and his treatment of wife Victoria. Bolo (the kind one, if you've been paying attention so far) describes Jonathan as "nice, but during the race he just went overboard."

While Lori (the honest one, if you've been paying attention so far) says, "Jonathan is nice but he's an a-hole."

4. Did you ever feel like beating up someone during the race?

Bolo: Yeah... Hayden and Aaron. They got in our faces most of the time during the race.

In past interviews, Lori was quoted saying, "I thought Hayden was degrading herself by going 'Oh baby!' all the time. Hayden's stuff got kind of old. Eventually, even Aaron was just like, 'Quit being such a bitch!'"

5. Lori really loves the word "Oooh" especially when used in answering queries about sex during the "mandatory rest periods." So did they?

OOOH baby... oooh la la

Lori: A couple of times.

Bolo: During the 36-hour rest periods, we did. But on the 12-hour ones, we just wanted to sleep so our sex life was not that good.

L: (to Bolo) I felt good! It's 'cuz you were asleep all the time!

B: ...

L: But you know, there were a bunch of cameras and microphones inside the rooms and we didn't want you guys to suddenly hear, "Oooh baby... oooh lala!"

6. How 'bout other reality shows?

Bolo says he's "not really into watching TV but he likes 'Fear Factor' and 'Survivor.'" Lori, on the other hand, responds, "I don't watch TV that much too because I'm always out with my horses." Besides her love for wrestling, she's also a barrel horse racer and is hoping to compete in professional rodeos soon. Very Lucy Lawless.

7. Lori is more creative than Bolo.

Me: If ever you would star in a movie, what would be its genre and title?

Bolo: (lots of thinking goin' on, then...) It would be a live action film with lots of stunts. But there would also be comedy because I'm like that—I'm a mix of action and comic.

Me: And what would be its title?

Bolo: (lots of thinking goin' on, then...) I really don't know.

Me: And Lori, what would be yours?

Lori: Hmmm... it would be "G. I. Lori: Kick-Ass Movie."

Comments at chowtime@greenarcher.net

Kapamilya strikes back?

From page G1

This is how it's gonna be: Shirtless Hunks, fake sand from Shopwise, Hawaiian shirts from Virra Mall, girls, the Hunks flirting with girls (yes, that means Piolo too), Chokoleit from Marina, and Carlos Agassi (still recovering from the ratings of his last great show, "Victim").

Uhm, "Bora" sounds like a hit.

James says, "SUCKS!"

Pepe says, "SUCKS!"

entertainment konek

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Entertainment Konek

"Entertainment Konek" isn't actually a new show (but then again, what is?). So, there's chika, chika, chika—and Angelika de la Cruz! (Who? Exactly.) Then you have Derek Ramsey who's really good at speaking Tagalog and voicing his opinions. And you have Ogie Diaz, silent man of the year. This show is bound for success.

Yeah, right.

Now there is something good about this show—their blind items, and they have this bull session segment where they just sit around and talk about issues. We're just waiting for them to talk about something that actually means something. (Which is never going to happen.)

Props to the producers for figuring out how to spell "Konek" in Tagalog.

James says, "ROCKS!"

Pepe says, "SUCKS!"

Goin' Bulilit

This is a gag show... with kids. (We're told Michael Jackson watches TFC just for this show.) The problem is this show is far from the "Ang TV" we used to love. They do spoofs of "Lovers in Paris" and "The Buzz" (which is a spoof itself). (Fine, expose the young to the best of today's TV.)

Now, there is talent. We're not gonna say the kids don't have it. The thing is, unless you're their parents, you will not want to watch this show.

James says, "SUCKS!"

Pepe says, "ROCKS!"

Home Boy

Boy Abunda tries to be the Filipino Oprah, with all the deepness and *iyakan* and stuff. The only thing left for him to do is fluctuate his weight.

The problem with this show is that it was hyped as, like, something different. Like, you'd see a different Boy Abunda. But what we got is... "Private Conversations" without the dark background and scented candles. The set of "Home Boy" looks exactly like the set of "Morning Girls with Kris and Korina" (no wonder Kris likes it).

And what's with the title?

We're not saying there's something wrong with Boy Abunda. It's just that there's something wrong with the way they marketed it.

Oh well, there are other shows...

James says, "SUCKS!"

Pepe says, "ROCKS!"

Kamao

"Kamao" is the first reality boxing show featuring 11 aspiring lightweight boxers, to be trained by Manny Paquiao. It's... new! (Wow, ABS has something new! ABS has something new! Wake up, everyone! ABS has something new!)

It's maximizing Pinoy talent, plus it has a market!

Ring the bells, the Kapamilyas might have something.

James says, "ROCKS!"

Pepe says, "ROCKS!"

Most Requested Show

Dick and Amy, great; Marvin Agustin, the TV Idols and Kit Kat, not great. There's something with this show that's just not interesting. All we can say is that, it's a show where you can request... Our wish *ko lang* (oops) is for them to get Sharon Cuneta to shop at Megamall. (Can you believe that she's never been to Megamall? Well, if she did, she'd have to reserve the whole place. Peace, *Ate* Shawie, peace.)

James says, "SUCKS!"

Pepe says, "SUCKS!"

Search for the Star in A Million

It's a search... for the star... in a million.

Plus side, the hosts are surprisingly good. Sarah G, Erik "Shirtless Music Video" Santos, Christian Bautista (who's super popular in Indonesia), and Mark Bautista aka The Lastikman Nobody Noticed, are actually OK.

The judges, Wyngard Tracy, Agot Isidro and Rowell Santiago are not Fritz Infante-like, so that's fine.

However, what's wrong with the show is that there is no star in a million.

Keep searching, peeps.

James says, "ROCKS!"

Pepe says, "SUCKS!"

Stardance

Hey, it's another show with the word "Star" in it! But this one is actually watch-able. You have Douglas Nierras (the perfect "Weakest Link" host), Bianca Gonzales and Vanessa del Bianco (who, yes, has been un-deported... oops, that was Anjanette Abayari).

Production value and Nierras' choreography is as shocking as Tara Reid's boob slip. (That's shocking in a good way.)

Seems good... the only awkward things about it are Marvin Agustin and the "judges" (John Prats... please, just give him another show like "G-mik" or something kiddy.)

But all in all, "Stardance," the first dance idol search in the country, is something new. It's a winner.

James says, "ROCKS!"

Pepe says, "ROCKS!"

'Til Death Do Us Part

Diet, Kristine, and Asia Agcaoili (who looks constipated all the time). Death, please, death!

When we first tuned into it we actually thought it was a spoof. The characters are weird. Can you imagine Diether Ocampo as an embalmer? (Hey, "Six Feet Under!")

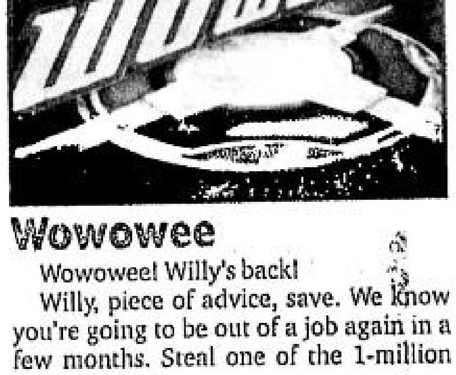
One good thing: There's John Lapus, who we have so much respect for because of his stage roles in the Met's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and Joey Gosiengfiao's "Temptation Island," and his fight with Kris Aquino.

Wait, we got it all figured out. Now we know why there was this whole "Did Diet and Kristine really get married?" issue. Bad managers, bad!

If you're gonna skip one new ABS-CBN show, it's this. Thank God it's a mini-series.

James says, "SUCKS!"

Pepe says, "SUCKS!"



Wowowee

Wowowee! Willy's back!

Willy, piece of advice, save. We know you're going to be out of a job again in a few months. Steal one of the 1-million peso *bayongs*.

Willy, you're just annoying. You rely on cheap sexual cracks to get laughs, and you think you can sing. Please. We know wit starts with a W too, but that doesn't mean you have it.

Wowowee! Sorry, we take that back.

James says, "SUCKS!"

Pepe says, "SUCKS!"

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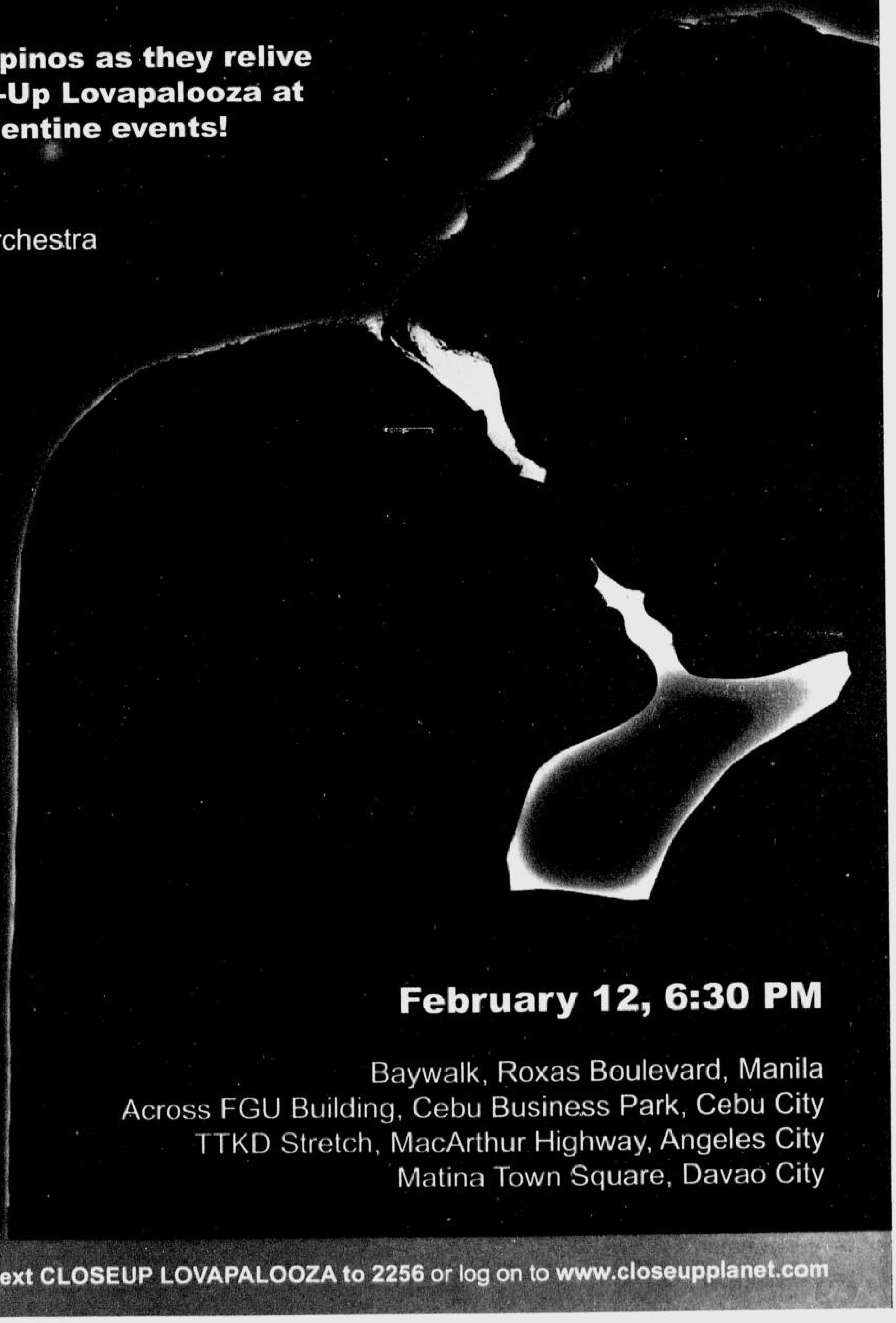

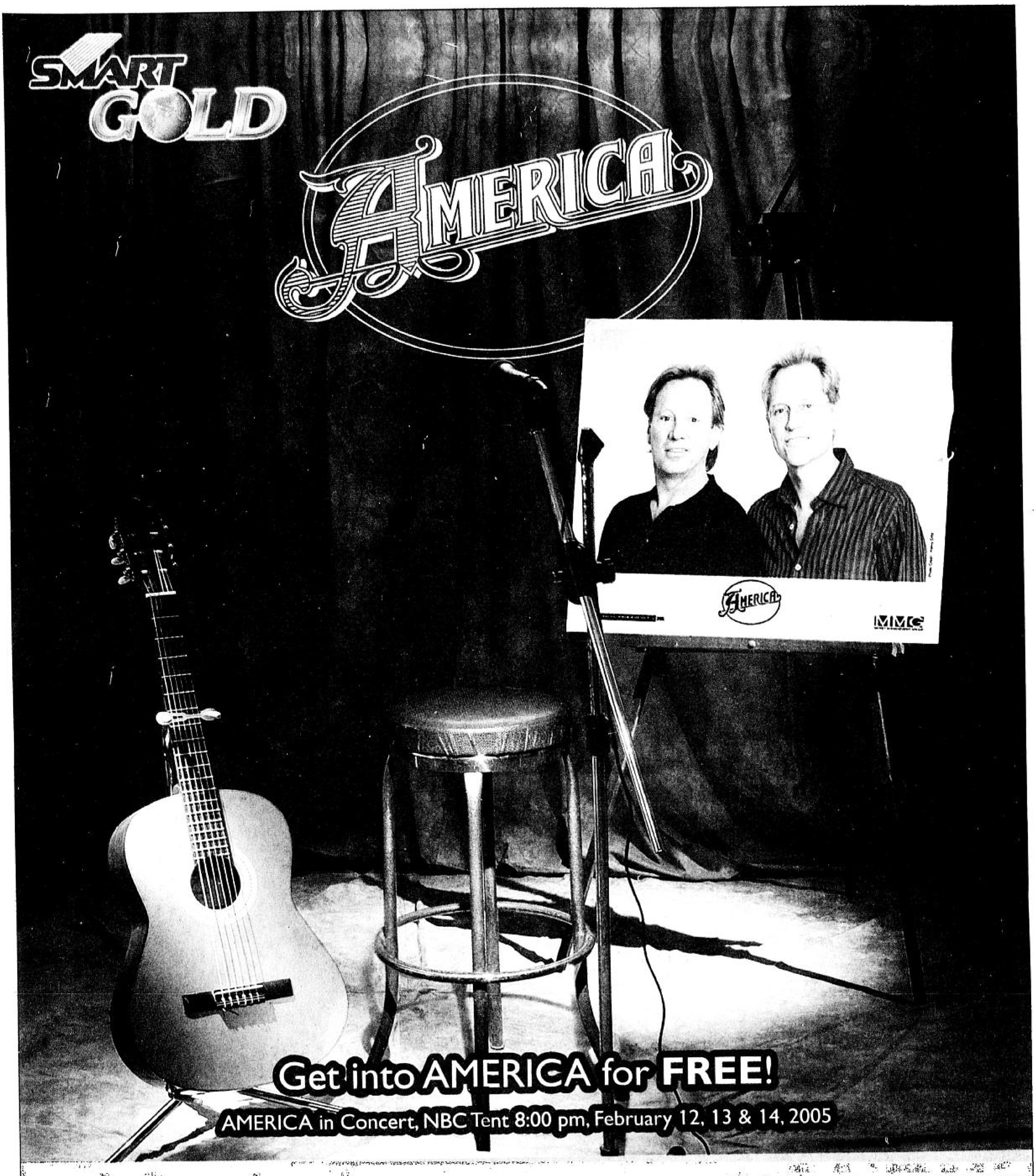
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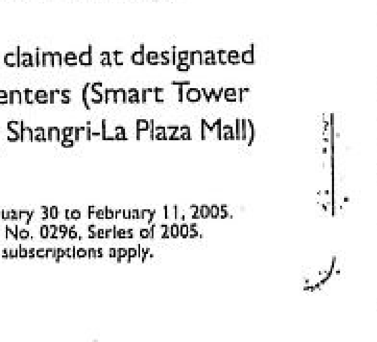

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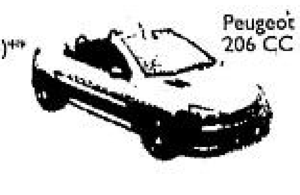

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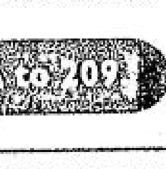

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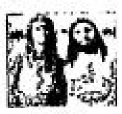
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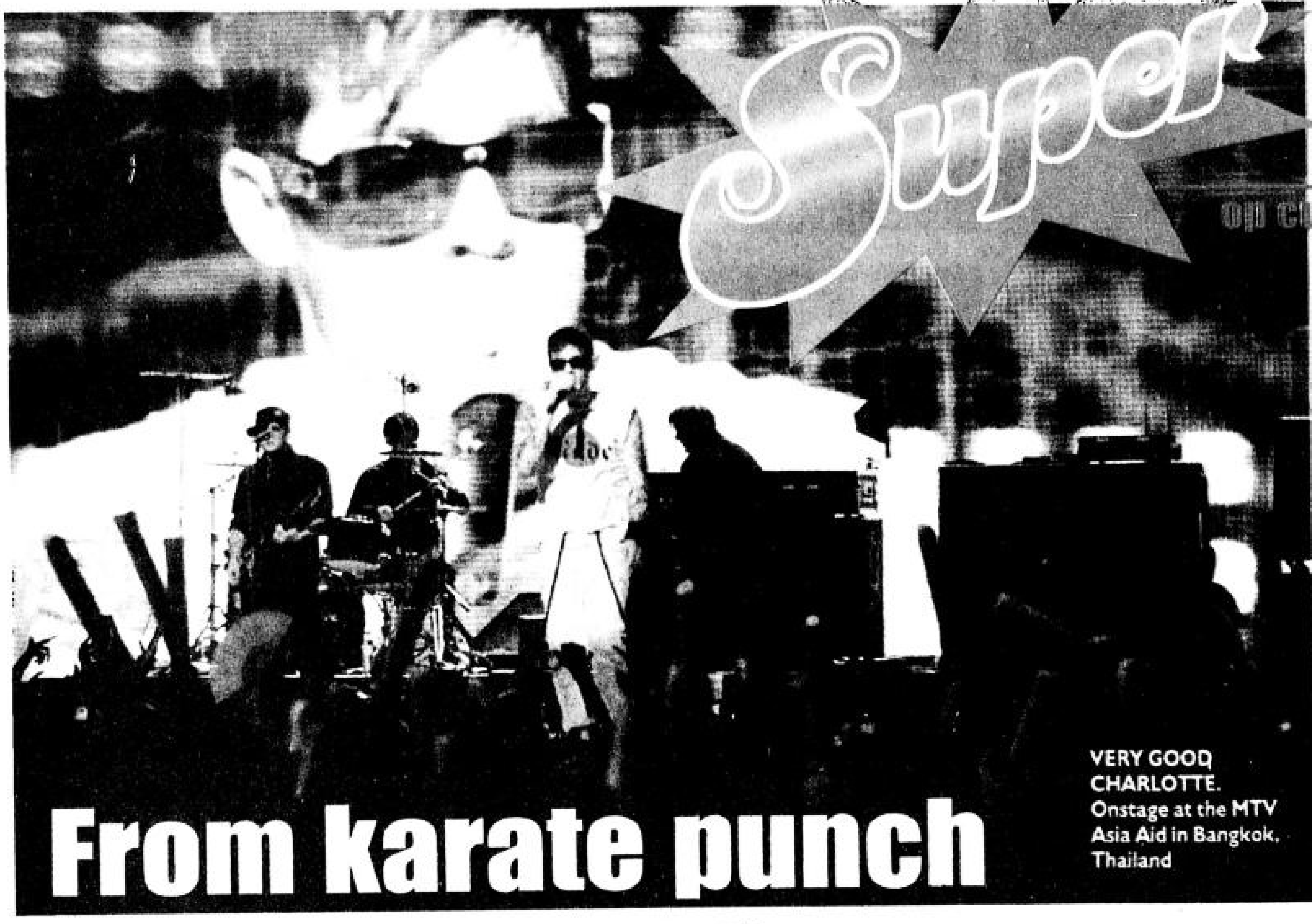

VERY GOOD CHARLOTTE. Onstage at the MTV Asia Aid in Bangkok, Thailand

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From karate punch to coconut trees

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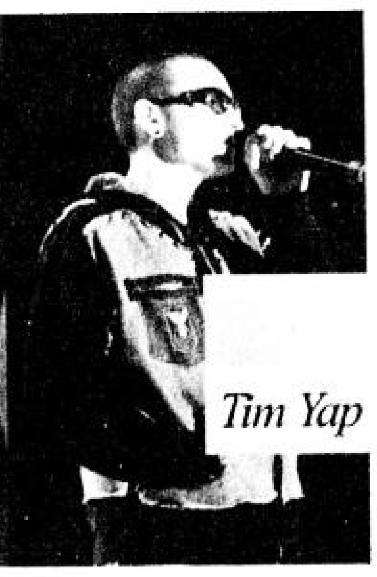

PARK HERE. Chester of Linkin Park woos the Asian audience

Tim Yap

BANGKOK, Thailand—What was supposed to be Asia's biggest musical awards show turned out to be the most widely covered fund-raising concert to aid the victims of the recent tsunami disaster, with wave after wave of local and international artists going all out to show their support.

In no particular order, **Robbie Williams, Shakira, The Black Eyed Peas, Jennifer Lopez, Enrique Iglesias, Moby, Ricky Martin**—all these big-name musical stars made sure to drop a line or two, with or without the aid of a teleprompter, to urge the MTV public

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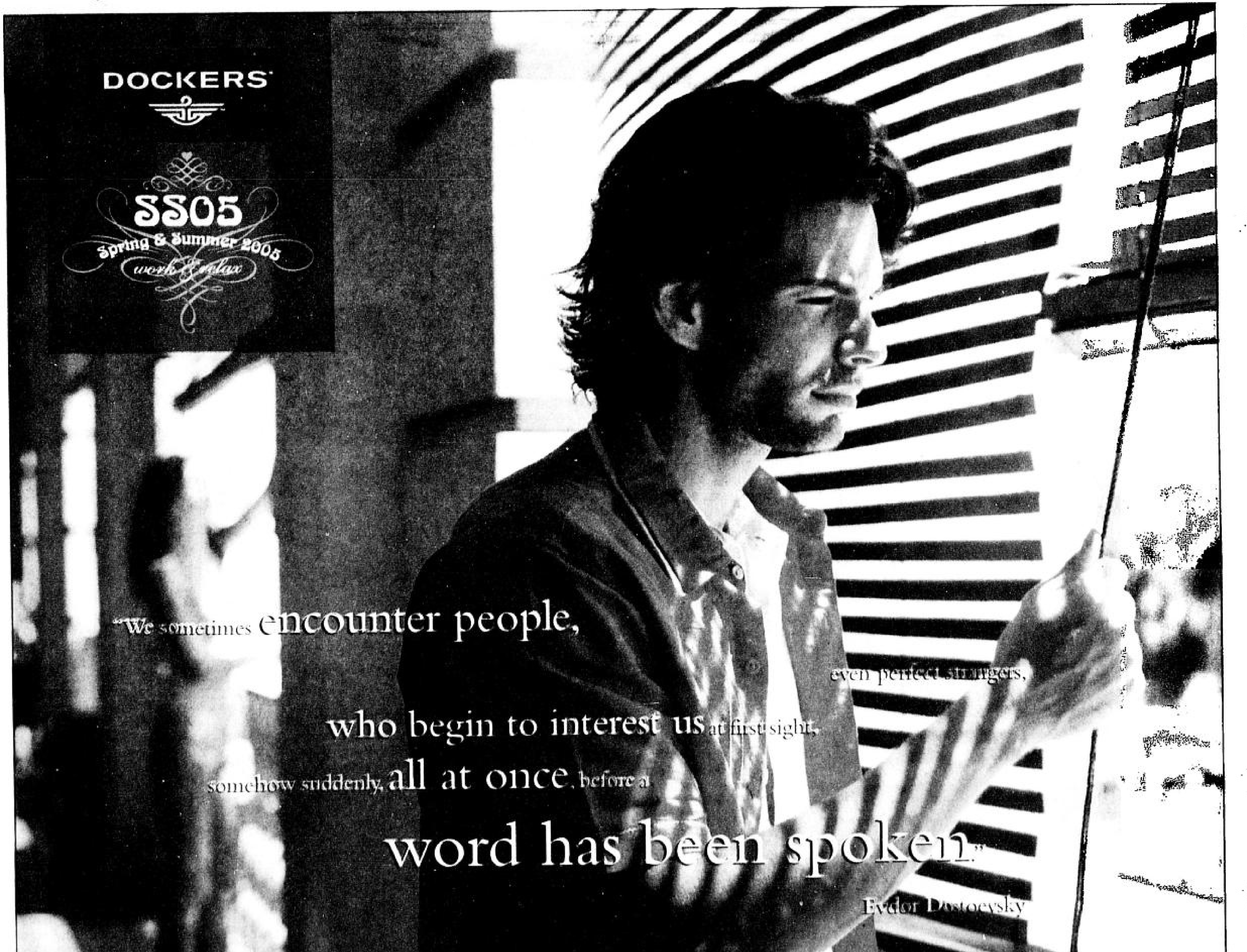

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who begin to interest us at first sight,
somehow suddenly, all at once, before a
word has been spoken."
Fyodor Dostoevsky

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The perfect toothpaste kiss

50 ½ Tips to V-day Bliss

By Pepe Diokno
Photos courtesy of Close-Up

Lovapalooza happens today at Valentine's parties nationwide!

LISTEN up, y'all! (Forgive the language.) V-day's coming up and I'm pumped. I have my whole Valentine's planned out—I am defragmenting my computer as you read this.

Now you, you should be happy to have a date on Monday—I mean, considering the tension between Taiwan and China. Now, if the Madame Auring dust my friend gave me last week hasn't washed off yet (I mean I haven't taken a bath since last week), I should be correct to say I sense you don't wanna screw up Valentine's Day.

Cause let's face it—what happens when you screw up Valentine's Day? Well, you end up defragmenting your computer 48 hours before V-day. (Tears run down my face now.)

Not that there's anything wrong with defragmenting your computer—it speeds up your computer's performance, you know. See, lovers (in Paris... haha... haha... ha), you need people like me (and that's the only thing keeping me from eating my way to Shawie-ness). So let me show you guys what I'm good for.

Research. Yes, I have spent 147+ Valentine's Days alone scrutinizing, dissecting, and thesis-izing Close-up commerials to. come up with the perfect tip list. Now, if someone had done this for me, I'd never be... defragmenting my computer 48 hours before Valentine's Day. Ladies, gents, and pandas, I have 50 ½ Tips to V-day Bliss.

Welcome to the world of toothpaste-perfect kisses, my friend. In exchange, please get me a social life. (Oh, Friendster!)

Tips 1-10. Who to kiss

Well ideally, your partner, but if the will of Zeus says otherwise...

1. Switch to Islam.
2. Tell your partner you we're going for a world record.
3. Do an Oedipus and gouge your eyes out. Or...
4. Do an Oedipus and say it was your mother.
5. Run... fast.
6. Do the Act of Contrition.
7. Tell your girlfriend /boyfriend you were practicing.
8. Girls get off easy—all they have to do is start crying (in public).
9. Make up for it by kissing someone new each day. Tell him/her to do the same. Take notes and compare.
10. Wait for the girl who hands out Cokes to pop out—it seems to put everyone in a good mood.

Tips 11-19. What to kiss.

There are undiscovered lands beyond the lips and neck. Here are parts of the body you may want to try:

11. The back of the knee. It's ticklish. Try it.
12. The underarm. Put Rexona to the test.
13. The nape. Now, this is not a joke. The problem is you might not know what a nape is in the first place. Look it up in the dictionary together—it's fun.
14. The heel. It's ticklish. Try it.
15. The belly button. Save money on cotton buds. Be like animals and clean each other.
16. The palm. This is especially good for the *pasmado* ones. Ah, juices.
17. The scalp. Yes, kiss the scalp. I heard you may find corn flakes. Bring milk with you, them.

(Am I grossing you out? Well, shut up—you were grossed out the first time you heard about the birds and the bees.)

18. The toes. Give each other a pedicure. She'd like that.
19. The nose. There are lots of nooks and crannies to explore. The caves go deep into the brain. 50 points if you find it.

Tips 20-25. When to kiss

You wanna wait for the perfect moment—cause if you don't, it just doesn't feel right. Here are cues for you to lean in and smooch:

20. Right after you collide along the sea shore and sand blows in your eyes.
21. Right after the fireworks start and the smoke clogs your nasal cavity.
22. Right after a near-death experience.
23. While it's raining, get sick together, at least it's not AIDS.
24. Right after she falls flat on her ass and breaks her tail bone.
25. At 3:00 in the afternoon, just in time for the 3 O'clock Habit..

Tips 25-38. Where to kiss

Your atmosphere must be conducive for kissing.

26. On the MRT... when no one else is around. (Like that's ever going to happen.)
27. In a bar... with the sultry beer smell.
28. At a playground. (So that's why it's called a playground!)
29. At an airport, while they frisk you.
30. Along the streets of Metro Manila (unless the truck with the wet thing comes by and douses you with water)
31. At a party. (Just make sure Super! doesn't catch you, Borgy)
32. Along Manila Bay. Just let the smell surround you.
33. In front of an empty field in school. Ah...
34. In a Jacuzzi. Now, this is cliché, so I suggest you do role-playing. Pretend you're both explorers caught by an Amazonian tribe, being boiled to death.
35. At the theater, during a play. (A play I suggest is Annie.)
36. In the car while you wait for the traffic cop to finally let you pass after 30 minutes at the same spot.
37. In a butterfly garden. (That one is serious.)

38. On a plane—just as you're about to plunge into the Mediterranean.

Tips 39-47 Why to kiss.

I suggest you two come up with creative reasons to keep your relationship alive. Try these and go from here:

39. Health reasons. It prevents Alzheimer's *daw*.
40. Scuba diving lesson 50: What to do in case your tank explodes.
41. Thumb wrestling? Try tongue wrestling.
42. Kissing aids the fiscal crisis.
43. "Hun, I lost my toothbrush."
44. Fear Factor: Halitosis.
45. Have you seen "Saved?" Try the, "Do you feel anything now?" game.
46. It's for a thesis.
47. It's the only form of entertainment that hasn't been taxed.

Tips 48-50 ½ . How to kiss

Now, this teeters on For <Gender Pronoun> Magazine territory, but what the heck.

48. The Rooster Kiss—This is in honor of the new year. Simply attach blades on your hands and duke it out to the death. Then kiss. Give it that Romeo and Juliet touch for extra emo-ness. Better hurry up, though—they plan on making this illegal.
49. The Three Little Piggies Kiss—Count to ten and make your way up. Start with the toes, of course. Now, if you take offense at calling yourself a little piggy, try rabbit, or koala, or tarsier or something. Variety works. Just make sure the person you're kissing isn't an elephant or anaconda (iww...).

50 ½. The Close-up Kiss—This one's a real winner. First, you'll have to put a whole tube of toothpaste on your brush. Now, brush your teeth really well, until you see a spark. Then, find some random hot chick, follow her. When she starts to stare and say, "Stop!" flash her your teeth. So, she gets blinded by the light and falls into this weird trance, and you start smooching. That's when the director says "Cut!" Act professionally, now. G'day.

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HOY, PINOY TAYO! Nathan Azarcon, MTV's Love Andaya and Bamboo Mañalac at the after-party at Metropolitan Hotel, Bangkok

"So many families waiting to be united, we have to be there for them."
- Shakira

From karate punch to coconut trees

From page H1

who joined hands with CNN for this special project, to reach out to the victims of Asia's biggest disaster since SARS ... or F4.

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Alicia Keys hosted the show with robotic ice queen precision, changing clothes like the artist formerly known as **J.Lo** replaces husbands. "I never thought she'd be that big in real life, did you see her saddlebags?" quipped one girl at the after party.

If you think watching a telecast is all too exciting, guess again. We had to endure seeing **Tata Young** again and again, due to technical difficulties. "Good thing the audience was great. I would have gone crazy if they weren't," she said as she caught her breath backstage before telling us how her best friend lost her dad during the tsunami disaster.

"I should make time for this and use my celebrity for good," said **Kelly Clarkson** in an oh so 80s fishtail gown. I thought I saw **Gary V** on the Bangkok Impact Center stage grooving, but no, it was **Rain**, of Korea, who even had his group of backup dancers who maneuvered their way into the audience's hearts.

Jennifer Lopez performed her latest single "Get Life," from a taped special in New York (geez, thanks!). A surprise act was **Sebastien** from **Simple Plan** jamming with **Good Charlotte** on stage while **Ronan Keating** did a whole video on his visit to the island of Phuket.

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At the after party, I spotted **Vanness Wu**, who, after learning I was Filipino, said, "*Mahal kita!*" **Borgy Manotoc**, who was with the Addict Mobile team (plus the winners of the Addict MTV Awards project) was a hit at the party, and so were our Filipino artists who were spotted having intimate moments with artists from across the region. Now how's that for reaching out?

"Answer tragedy with kindness and compassion."
-Moby

ADDICTED TO MTV Nina Gomez has a bright future

"Give a little more
No contribution is too small
We're counting on you
to make a difference."
-Alicia Keys

THE ASIAN VJ SUMMIT Our very own MTV VJ KC Montero with the rest of them

B-BOYS Borgy Manotoc with Bangkok boy Utt

"[illegible] South Asia need our help. [illegible] spreading this message."
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LIWANAG SA DILIM Cooltronica says 'Rivermaya rules!'

RICO, REJOICE! Rico Blanco after Rivermaya's victory

DATE WITH DANICA Danica Sotto with Rivermaya's Mark Escueta

B-BOYS Borgy Manotoc with Bangkok boy Utt

WHERE'S CHITO? The Parokya gang in party mode

THE ASIAN VJ SUMMIT Our very own MTV VJ KC Montero with the rest of them

"Give a little more. No contribution is too small. We're counting on you to make a difference." –Alicia Keys

SINGAPORE SWINGER MTV VJ Denise Keller at the Metropolitan Bar, Bangkok

THE BRAINS BEHIND THE SCENES: MTV beauty Georgette Tengco

"The people of South Asia need our help. Please help us in spreading this message." - Jennifer Lopez

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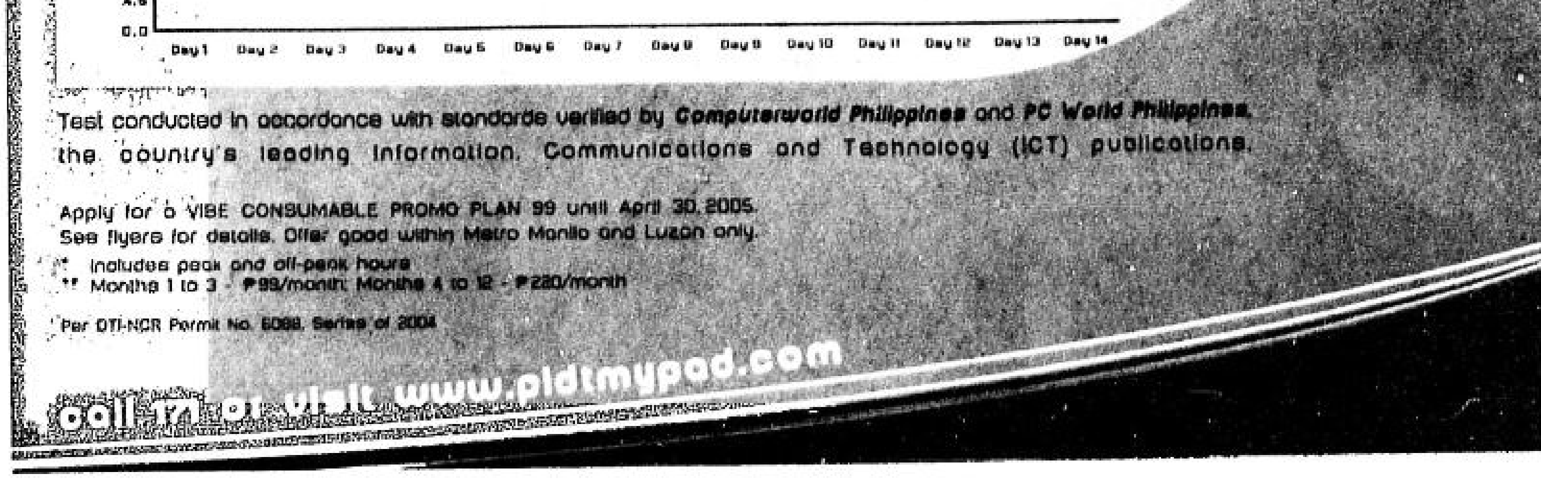

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WHAT'S INSIDE

"FLAMENCO is a powerful and passionate art form. To make it that world, you have to be that kind of person," says dancer-choreographer Clara Ramona. ***Story on page 2***

Love vs lust

By Marge C. Enriquez

SONA BAHRI and Mohit Sibal were married on Valentine's Day in 1994. She was 23, he was 26.

Unlike most young couples who would naturally look forward to the honeymoon, they agreed to abstain from sex for a whole year. Eleven years later, they have not flinched, yet their relationship has become more and more stable. They jaunt with contentment through each other's worlds without hang-ups or defenses. Their unconditional acceptance and trust in each other have made their marriage more solid.

How did this attractive couple manage to get sex out of the way and receive a boon of psychic rewards instead?

No honeymoon

Sona, now 33, and Mohit, 37, run a retreat center in Blue Mountain, New South Wales, Australia. A linguist and meditation teacher, Sona, has lived in the United States, Hong Kong and Italy, went to boarding school in England, spent her teen years in South America, and returned to India at 13. Aside from English and Hindi, she speaks Italian, Spanish, French, Nippongo and Punjabi.

Mohit, an environmental engineer, hails from Madras. When he was working in Rajasthan, he and his friends would spend holidays in Delhi. Through a common friend, he met Sona. She remembers how they noticed each other in a group of 10 that was getting squeezed into a car. When Mohit turned around and said hello to her, Sona said, she immediately felt she had known him before. She was attracted to his gentleness.

On the other hand, the shy and quiet Mohit found Sona's exuberance magnetic. He recalls: "I started to see there was a potential for us to be a happy couple because of her openness."

While planning their wedding, the couple were also processing their immigration papers to Australia. For an auspicious wedding date, they consulted an astrologer, who picked Feb. 14. Immediately after the rites, Mohit had to return to the South of India for work. Sona was based in the North. They lived as a couple only when they finally moved to Sydney. They took interest in meditation. Mohit was attracted to the practitioners who led extremely busy lives, yet they exuded an aura of energy and happiness.

"I worked for eight hours and I was cranky. These people were not squandering their energy. My curiosity was aroused, so I took the (meditation) course," recalls Mohit. To get maximum benefit from the practice, a pure lifestyle was recommended. Without missing a beat, the couple agreed.

Or how this physically attractive couple have stayed married for 11 years without sex

The practice of chastity started out as an experiment, in the same way that they had ventured into an animal-free diet. Mohit asks, "What's one year in a lifetime? What's the hurry?"

Sona herself was inspired by her mentors' higher commitment to truth and purity. "I was drawn by that, and it made me think."

Once indulgent

Mohit's work brought him to Melbourne, where he kept good company that reinforced his clean living. After a couple of months, he was reunited with Sona, who was concerned about his adjustment. Once indulgent in meat and drinking, he had kicked his old habits.

Says Mohit: "I compared my current frame of mind with the past and saw the difference. That's when I made the connection that this [discipline] was really powerful. I didn't feel like I was missing out on anything because I was riding on the attainments."

The couple were spared from the stress that comes with a sexual relationship—obsession with the body (any kind of obsession is really a mental bondage, something people don't want to admit), performance pressure, insecurities, emotional and physical dependency. It can cause damage and boredom.

Mohit explains that the real battle was confronting attitudes and behavioral patterns. "Physical abstinence wasn't that hard. We can't think of an instance when we succumbed to temptation. Purity of the mind is the challenge. Programming the mind to bring sustainable change is a time consuming process," he says.

Most people will be appalled by the idea of marriage without sex and even find it unnatural. Sona explains: "Every human needs love and a network of love or a family. Many believe that sexual activity is an expression of love. Sometimes they don't know how else to express it. But it's not love."

She differentiates between love and lust: "Love is the sign of a full soul, one who has a lot to give. Lust is the sign of an empty soul who needs to get love and happiness from someone. The body follows the mind. If your mind is directed towards someone's body, then your body will respond in the same way. The body is a reflection of what's going on inside. If you look at someone as a being rather than a body to be used, you start relating to the being for who they are rather than what (assets) they've got. If sex is considered an important component in keeping a relationship together, then people would have to be upfront about it. 'Yeah, I loved for sex!' I could never say that. The primary component for me was that I love you for who you are."

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Clara Ramona: I believe in dance

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photo by Niccolo Cosme

THERE'S a photograph of Clara Ramona in a Spanish classical ballet pose—one leg shooting up to the sky, body tilted backward, swept into a graceful arch.

Like the sun, she burns with stellar brilliance. The dancer-choreographer's allure makes an impact that instantly turns watchers into worshippers. Her movements are silky and sensual—a spiraling torso, windmill arms, a melding of modern and classic vocabulary, an expansive chest, dove-like hands, and crisp footwork executed with effortless calculation.

Prodigious movements contrast with the quick but exquisitely controlled *taconeo* (intricate footwork) filigree. To add drama, she sometimes uses her long mane as an extension of her body, releasing it with a whoosh of emotion.

Her stage presence is a combination of a spirited personality, expressiveness and the peerless credentials born of 28 years of flamenco and Spanish classical dancing, modern dance and ballet.

Responding to the worldwide interest in belly-dancing, Clara, being an individualist has developed her own style, *andaluzi*, a hybrid of the ancient art form and rumba flamenca. She shows her students the power and purity of simplicity of movement emanating from one's deepest core.

Belly dancing isn't just hip twitching; it is a wide range of emotions from lyrical to dramatic, and a wide range of movements from fluid body and arm ripples to vibrating hips and shoulders that cast a hypnotic spell. She has a way of elevating her belly-dancing class into a mystical experience.

At 48, Clara Ramona is at her peak, both as a dancer and teacher, and choreographer. Her midlife took a turn when she decided to return to her roots by sharing her knowledge. Like any world-class performer, she had danced in the world's cultural capitals, worked with American jazz and modern dance companies, and held workshops in Asia, Europe and the United States, including the Harvard dance program.

Upon the invitation of Emma Estrada, one of the founders of Fundacion Centro Flamenco, Clara decided to come home and teach full-time.

Innovation

Born Claire Rámona Batchelder Bautista (in Spain, the father's surname comes first) to an American father and a Filipina mother, she studied dance at the age of five in Davao under Carmen Locsin (mother of choreographer Agnes Locsin). When the family migrated to the United States, she pursued ballet, jazz and modern dance at the Boston Conservatory of Music and Boston Ballet. One day in school, she was attracted to the sounds of strong rhythmic footwork in a flamenco class taught by Ramon delos Reyes. She was intrigued by how a dancer seemed to extract power literally from the earth as if one had undertaken a magical dialogue with the floor.

Something more than a student-teacher relationship blossomed after the classes. They were married and had two children—Isaac, now 24, and Nino, 19—currently at the top of the new generation of flamenco dancers.

Clara became the principal dancer of the Ramon delos Reyes Company. When she separated from her husband in 1991, she moved to his hometown, Madrid, and lived there for 13 years. Clara says they have remained good friends and still perform together. In fact, in 1999, she choreographed "Flamenco Essencia, (Essence of Flamenco)" with the whole family representing three generations of the genre—flamenco *puro*, flamenco fusion and Nuevo Flamenco (New Flamenco), characterized by footwork pyrotechnics that challenge complex counter-rhythms.

In her younger days, Clara envisioned herself as a performer until she discovered her gifts for choreography and teaching (since childhood, she had been creating dances for shows or fiestas in Davao). As her talent matured, she found effective means to put her modern dance background to dramatic use. To create powerful statements, her choreographies called for a formidable technique with a very individualistic sense of structure. One of her major works was "Carmina Burana," which fused with technical and dramatic experimentation within the framework of contemporary dancing and flamenco. Premiered in Boston, the innovative opera-dance, backed up by a full orchestra and chorus, won accolades and put her on the list of the world's best choreographers, alongside the likes of George Balanchine.

In Spain, the public cheered her bringing flamenco forward and giving it a modern feel. However, when she did "Los Desemperados (The Desperate Ones)," a juxtaposition of jazz and flamenco set to Miles Davies' "Solea," critics were appalled. It was ahead of its time. Detractors sneered, "That's not flamenco!"

Clara maintains, "I never said it was. When you come to a new place to do new things, the first thing people do is put you on the chopping block. I have to do what I believe in—to create.' That's what artists are for, it's not to be accepted by everybody. You want to create your art."

Joaquin Cortez was in the audience and was awestruck by Clara's boldness. He went on to develop his own flamenco fusion and became a media darling. He later admitted to Clara's sons that he was inspired by their mother's innovations. In time, flamenco fusion and flamenco jazz became mainstream.

Unselfish

One of Clara's peak experiences was touring China with her 25-member company, Ballet Español de Clara Ramona. "It brought all my experiences under one umbrella. I was director, choreographer, lead dancer and mother of the lead-starrer flamenco boys. Performing with my sons is a peak," she says.

Isaac and Nino have performed at the Sadler's Wells in London and at the Sydney Opera House when they were in their teens. Clara rues that in Spain there are many young dancers that have stronger technique and eloquence in style—such as her sons—who don't get recognition, compared to other artists propelled by media hype but who lack in substance.

> One of her major works, 'Carmina Burana,' landed her on the list of the world's best choreographers, alongside the likes of George Balanchine

As a teacher Clara is totally unselfish. "When you hold back, you stunt the students' growth. A good teacher understands the students' needs and gives all she can."

Students at the Fundacion Centro Flamenco are lucky. It's like taking classes in Spain but at a fraction of the cost. However, unlike classes in Madrid where teachers will not adjust to the students' learning pace, Clara, despite her experience and stature, patiently shows students, no matter how timid, the correct techniques.

The biggest challenge in flamenco is jousting with the counter-rhythms that often stymies everybody. This teacher patiently explains the undercurrents in the rhythms and enthralls the students when she performs. After class, the aspiring *flamencas* practice their *choreografia* with intensity.

Clara knows teaching can be a thankless job. "Sometimes it hurts when you give too much." The students are not appreciative or grateful, or they don't acknowledge you as teacher. If they become your dancers in your company, you develop them and they leave to form their own group, they don't mention you in their resumé. But you know that you helped shape their talents and careers. It can be really painful when they deny these things. But that's okay, that's part of the game."

Peaking at midlife

Nonetheless, creativity remains Clara's breath of life. She feels she is at her top form. Clara believes in the adage that life begins at 40.

"When you reach that age, you know who you are, what you want, what you don't want. You know how to do it and how to get it. Before that age, you are just fishing around the whole time, finding ways to get things done. After 40, you know how to get all of those things. And sometimes it's not important anymore whether you get it or not. Before that, it's acquiring and acquiring, then you realize you don't need to acquire all those things here," she says, laughing.

Don't flamenco dancers have a longer lifespan than ballerinas?

"Of course they can dance forever, dancing what? Dancing how? You develop a performing quality that can keep going, but are you keeping up with the times and with the flamenco scene that is constantly growing? It is physical. You have to constantly stay in shape. Dancing is very hard on the body."

Teaching and executing the movements at performance level for long hours everyday can take their toll. When she turns 50, Clara hopes to refine her choreographic skills and pedagogical methods without having to toil as much.

"I've been working very, very hard my whole life. I love dancing, it's been like church for me. I believe in it. But after devoting more than half my life to dancing, I want to start getting something in return for my dancing," she says. She hopes to run a company or a school, build dancers and maybe even manage their careers.

For now, life is wonderful. "My return to the Philippines is a demonstration of my independence. Is it like going to the wolf's mouth? I'm not afraid of starting from zero, not afraid to wait out an idea and see it through the end. That's who I am—never afraid, ready to start anytime, anywhere."

Clara Ramona teaches flamenco, Classico Español, andaluzi (belly dancing and flamenco) and abs workout at the Fundacion Centro Flamenco at 8463 Rockwell Drive (Kalayaan Avenue), Makati City. For details call 751-2243

Credits:
Maquillage: Lee Roberto for Shiseido, The Makeup, spring-summer collection

It's all about the teacher

By Cherish Garcia Hernandez
Contributor

LONG BEFORE the fitness revolution engulfed us, Vivian Zapanta was already very visible as a fitness guru. She gained nationwide popularity back in the 1980s with her fitness segments that were shown on television. Today, when mega gyms and other names dominate the fitness industry, Vivian continues to prove her staying power.

Always one to keep abreast of trends, Vivian recently opened her own Stott Pilates studio in the heart of Makati. The studio caters to an upscale clientele who know that Pilates is the exercise of choice for numerous models, actors, athletes and even professional dancers around the world.

> … when it comes to physical fitness, Vivian Zapanta has well earned her title as guru

Pioneered by the late Joseph Pilates, the mind-body exercise system enhances core strength and stability, improves posture and alignment, increases flexibility, improves muscular balance and strength, increases endurance and muscle tone, prevents injury, enhances athletic performance, relieves stress and back pain, improves balance and coordination, and heightens body awareness.

The Stott Pilates method that Vivian employs was developed by Moira Merrithew, a former dancer who modified the original Pilates exercises to come up with her own modern anatomically based approach to the original exercise method. Vivian is not only a certified Stott Pilates instructor trainer, she is also the one who certifies aspiring Stott Pilates instructors in the region.

Positive energy

I recently sat down with Vivian in her impressive new studio to talk about the journey that lead her to where she is today. A petite woman, Vivian exudes a natural positive energy and a candidness that quickly endears her to you. We talked about her life, and the journey that brought her to where she is today.

Her foray into physical fitness and conditioning started when she was 16, and she and her sister started teaching Polynesian dance. This was back when Hawaiian dancing was all the rage. Eventually, she went to the University of Santo Tomas, where she graduated cum laude majoring in Physical Education. This led to a job at the Mandarin health club where she taught, of all things, a class called "sexercise"—but then this was the '70s. By the time the Jane Fonda revolution had everyone feeling the burn, Vivian was establishing herself as the Jane Fonda of the Philippines, with her small exercise segments in "Coffee with Lee," an early morning show. Inevitably, her popularity and success motivated her to put up her own gym, VZ Shapemakers, in Greenhills. Eventually, she had her own television show, VeeZee body, which aired for 30 minutes Saturdays.

VIVIAN Zapanta stretches on the Arc Barrel.

RUDY ESPE

Through all this, Vivian managed to raise a daughter, study cooking, as well as explore SOM or Science of Mind, which she credits for her new positive outlook on life. It was a turning point, she said, because of which she learned to be at peace with herself and appreciate everything that comes. But for this feisty woman, taking what comes did not mean slowing down. As an IDEA (International Dance Exercise Association) Health and Fitness Association ambassador to the Philippines, Vivian continued to upgrade her craft. After becoming a certified Les Mills instructor for Body Balance, a Pilates/yoga/tai chi based form of exercise, Vivian spent six months in Canada training for Stott Pilates.

Results

Her recently-opened studio is equipped with $35,000 worth of state-of-the-art Stott Pilates equipment and machines. The only Asian in the certification body of Stott to date, Vivian also likes to instill positive outlook in her faculty and clients.

There's a reason that Pilates is so popular in spite of the hefty sum one has to pay for private instruction: It gets results.

Personally, when I stopped dancing, I went to the gym for three hours every day just to stay fit. I get exactly the same results with my weekly Pilates sessions. I find that my muscles are lengthened and I am more centered—something that translates even when I teach ballet.

Though I have been taking Pilates for six months, I had never tried Stott Pilates until my session with Vivian. Because Pilates originated from one person, the exercises are all similar, regardless of the method. Stott Pilates focuses on specific parts of the anatomy. The Authentic Pilates exercises have also been greatly modified into a program that is unique to Stott.

Having been a professional dancer, I tend to approach exercise programs with a different mindset, often over-analyzing every movement. I have to admit that I am very picky when it comes to fitness instructors. It is difficult to explain the differences in methods without getting overly specific. Suffice it to say that I had a good and challenging workout with Vivian. She is articulate and passionate about her work and it comes through when she is working with you. To paraphrase something a journalist told me: At the end of the day, it is all about the teacher.

With her franchise of Stott Pilates, Vivian has once again proven that she has been, and will always be, one of the best-known fitness gurus in the country. Somehow I have a feeling she won't stop there either, and that she still has so much more to offer.

Vivian Zapanta Pilates Studio is at the Tiffany Place, 166 L.P. Leviste St. Salcedo Village, Makati City. Tel. no. 886-7744. or (0917) 844-0944.

A Valentine's Day Celebration to Remember at SM Supermalls

SM Supermalls celebrate Valentine's Day 2005 with a series of heart-warming events guaranteed to entertain your family, friends and your special someone.

ROMANTIC DATING GAME AT THE MALL

An exciting event for all single hearts! Be the lucky searchee in town in SM Supermalls' "Romantic Dating Game". Just answer the celebrity's questions and if he or she selects you, you spend an afternoon date together in an SM mall. Many of today's young stars will be the day's celebrity searchers, among them are Geoff Eigenmann, Rainier Castillo, Dennis Trillo, Bianca King, Baron Geisler and many others.

HEART-TO-HEART LOVE CONCERT

Let your hearts be captivated with the ultimate Valentine Concerts from SM Supermalls. Watch and listen to LIVE performaces by Christian Bautista, Josh Santana, Victoria, Passage Band, and many more on stage at SM Supermalls activity areas. All you have to do is be there with your loved ones!

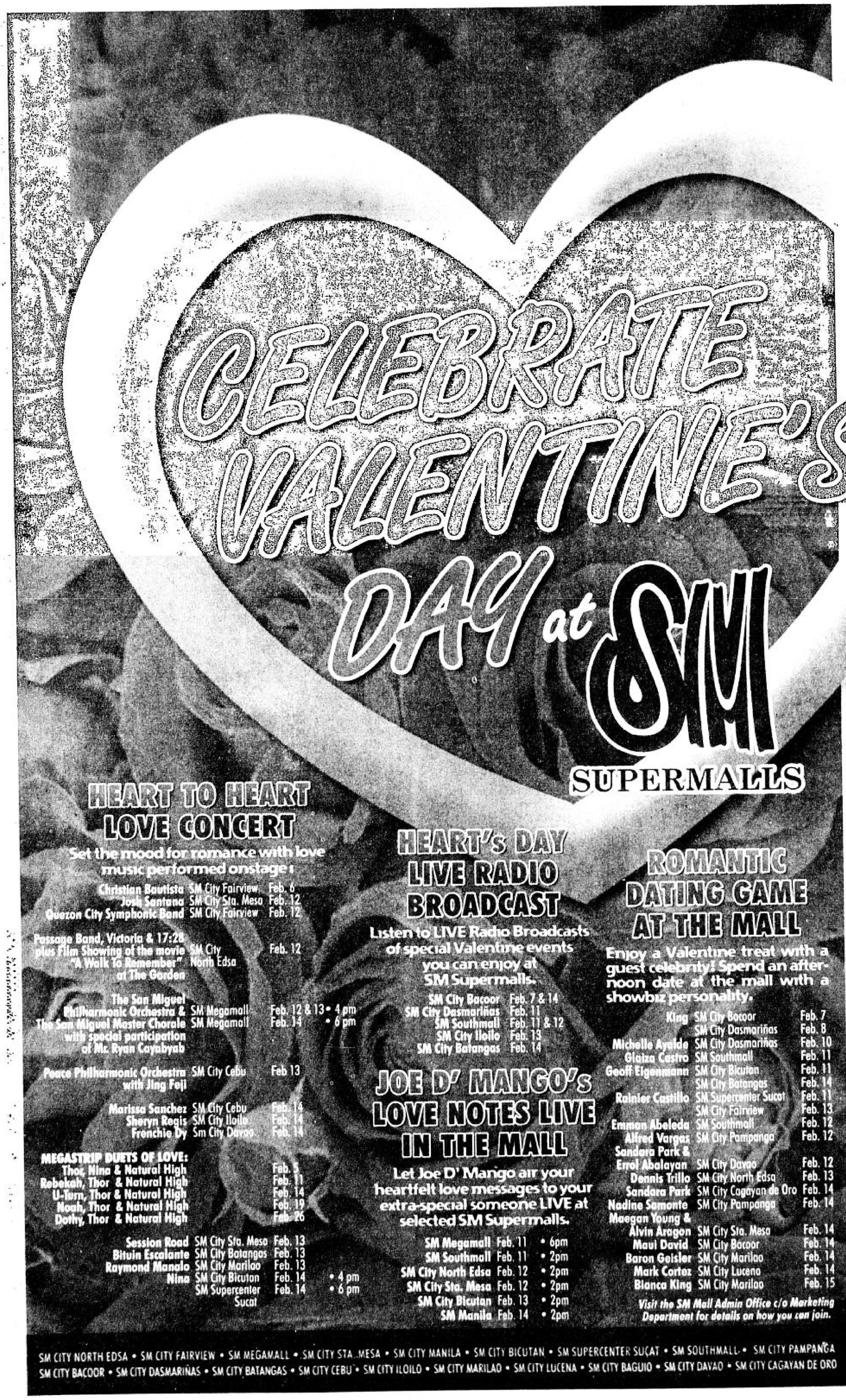
JOE D' MANGO's LOVE NOTES LIVE AT THE MALL

Mr. Love Notes, Joe D' Mango, will air your special love messages LIVE at selected SM malls. What's more, Love Notes listeners are invited to drop their love notes/letters in special love drop boxes at selected SM malls. Tune in to Wave 89.1 FM for more details. Each day, Joe will pick a letter, read it and give his advice, LIVE at SM malls. The lucky sender gets a special prize from Joe D' Mango.

HEART'S DAY LIVE RADIO BROADCAST

Tune in and listen as SM Supermalls and local radio stations give you live broadcasts of special love songs and other Valentine events.

WAVE 89.1 JOY


CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY at SM
SUPERMALLS

HEART TO HEART LOVE CONCERT

Set the mood for romance with love music performed onstage:

Christian Bautista	SM City Fairview	Feb. 6	
Josh Santana	SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 12	
Quezon City Symphonic Band	SM City Fairview	Feb. 12	
Passage Band, Victoria & 17:28 plus Film Showing of the movie "A Walk To Remember" at The Garden	SM City North Edsa	Feb. 12	
The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra & The San Miguel Master Chorale with special participation of Mr. Ryan Cayabyab	SM Megamall SM Megamall	Feb. 12 & 13 Feb. 14	• 4 pm • 6 pm
Peace Philharmonic Orchestra with Jing Feji	SM City Cebu	Feb 13	
Marissa Sanchez	SM City Cebu	Feb. 14	
Sheryn Regis	SM City Iloilo	Feb. 14	
Frenchie Dy	Sm City Davao	Feb. 14	
MEGASTRIP DUETS OF LOVE:			
Thor, Nina & Natural High		Feb. 5	
Rebekah, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 11	
U-Turn, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 14	
Noah, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 19	
Dothy, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 26	
Session Road	SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 13	
Bituin Escalante	SM City Batangas	Feb. 13	
Raymond Manalo	SM City Marilao	Feb. 13	
Nina	SM City Bicutan	Feb. 14	• 4 pm
	SM Supercenter Sucat	Feb. 14	• 6 pm

HEART's DAY LIVE RADIO BROADCAST

Listen to LIVE Radio Broadcasts of special Valentine events you can enjoy at SM Supermalls.

SM City Bacoor	Feb. 7 & 14
SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 11
SM Southmall	Feb. 11 & 12
SM City Iloilo	Feb. 13
SM City Batangas	Feb. 14

JOE D' MANGO's LOVE NOTES LIVE IN THE MALL

Let Joe D' Mango air your heartfelt love messages to your extra-special someone LIVE at selected SM Supermalls.

SM Megamall	Feb. 11	• 6pm
SM Southmall	Feb. 11	• 2pm
SM City North Edsa	Feb. 12	• 2pm
SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 12	• 2pm
SM City Bicutan	Feb. 13	• 2pm
SM Manila	Feb. 14	• 2pm

ROMANTIC DATING GAME AT THE MALL

Enjoy a Valentine treat with a guest celebrity! Spend an afternoon date at the mall with a showbiz personality.

King	SM City Bacoor	Feb. 7
	SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 8
Michelle Ayalde	SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 10
Glaiza Castro	SM Southmall	Feb. 11
Geoff Eigenmann	SM City Bicutan	Feb. 11
	SM City Batangas	Feb. 14
Rainier Castillo	SM Supercenter Sucat	Feb. 11
	SM City Fairview	Feb. 13
Emman Abeleda	SM Southmall	Feb. 12
Alfred Vargas	SM City Pampanga	Feb. 12
Sandara Park & Errol Abalayan	SM City Davao	Feb. 12
Dennis Trillo	SM City North Edsa	Feb. 13
Sandara Park	SM City Cagayan de Oro	Feb. 14
Nadine Samonte	SM City Pampanga	Feb. 14
Maegan Young & Alvin Aragon	SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 14
Maui David	SM City Bacoor	Feb. 14
Baron Geisler	SM City Marilao	Feb. 14
Mark Cortez	SM City Lucena	Feb. 14
Bianca King	SM City Marilao	Feb. 15

Visit the SM Mall Admin Office c/o Marketing Department for details on how you can join.

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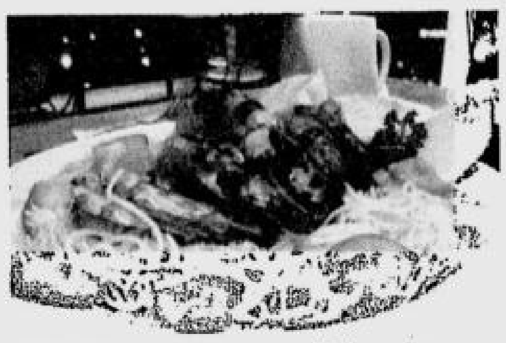
SM CITY BACOOR • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS • SM CITY BATANGAS • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY MARILAO • SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO



GRILLED prawns atop angel hair pasta at Paliz'zata

BEST pizza in Baguio is at Pizza Volante. The milkshakes are a must-try.

Little Italy in Baguio

By Meluchi Rivera
Contributor

BAGUIO CITY—Who said that one mall now has a lock on the best dining-with-a-view in the City of the Pines? Some quick research led us to at least two uncommon eating places that prove the real heart of the city still is that famed strip of concrete called Session Road.

The first is called Paliz'zata, a glass-walled Italian restaurant and café on the roof deck of the Porta Vaga mall. The setting offers unparalleled views of the city and Session Road, as well as the postcard-perfect Baguio Cathedral just a few steps away. We suggest coming for dinner, when the skyline is especially pretty.

Chances are, you will catch owner Mark Anthony Macapugay earnestly preparing the food, while his wife Jennifer helps attend to customers. The café opened January last year and, sans any marketing effort, has attracted regulars and even out-of-towners who have heard of the steak and pasta dishes. The portions are more than generous, and Manilans will delight at the prices.

We tried the beef and tuna carpaccio, which comes with capers and a seriously large serving of leafy greens (we are in Baguio, after all). While Macapugay admits to having no formal training as a chef, his version of these antipasti can give those of some upscale Manila restaurants a serious run for their money. Ask for the vinaigrette to be served on the side, however, as the accompanying salad is rather too heavily dressed.

Heroic efforts

The main dishes we had—Italian-style beef stew with red wine sauce, and grilled prawns atop angel hair pasta—also passed muster. And again, the accompanying servings of pasta were generous to the point of overwhelming—we must have been served around 200g of pasta each. Neither my husband nor I could clean our plates, despite heroic efforts, and we had to pass on dessert.

The second place we tried, upon the recommendation of some locals, is almost a hole-in-the-wall. It is easy to miss, marked by a small red 'Volante' sign alongside a larger, neon-lit sign saying "Session," symbol of the old Session Theater. It is almost a dive, located in an old building, with just a smattering of chairs on the first floor. Choicer seats, away from the exhaust of passing cars, are at the second and a half floor— yes, you read right. Try to be as nonchalant as the locals as you walk up the back stairs and come to what looks like a forlorn sala from a '50s Pinoy black-and-white movie. Turn left, walk up three more steps, and viola—Pizza Volante's annex.

I assure you that the slight bemusement will leave you once you get hold of their menu. You will be instantly excited over the 15 kinds of pizza, some familiar and some atypical. There are five kinds of pasta, and more eclectic fare like waffles, omelets and banana splits. For drinks there are the usual sodas and beer, plus fruit and milk shakes (the strawberry milkshake is a must), ginseng, organic lemongrass juice, and even wine by the glass. Even more exciting: prices are cheap, obviously designed for the backpack-toting student population.

Safe, novel, unusual

Pizza flavors range from the safe, such as pepperoni, mushroom and pesto; to the novel, like burger, chili con carne and bratwurst; to the really unusual, like Hanna sausage and chicken Marengo.

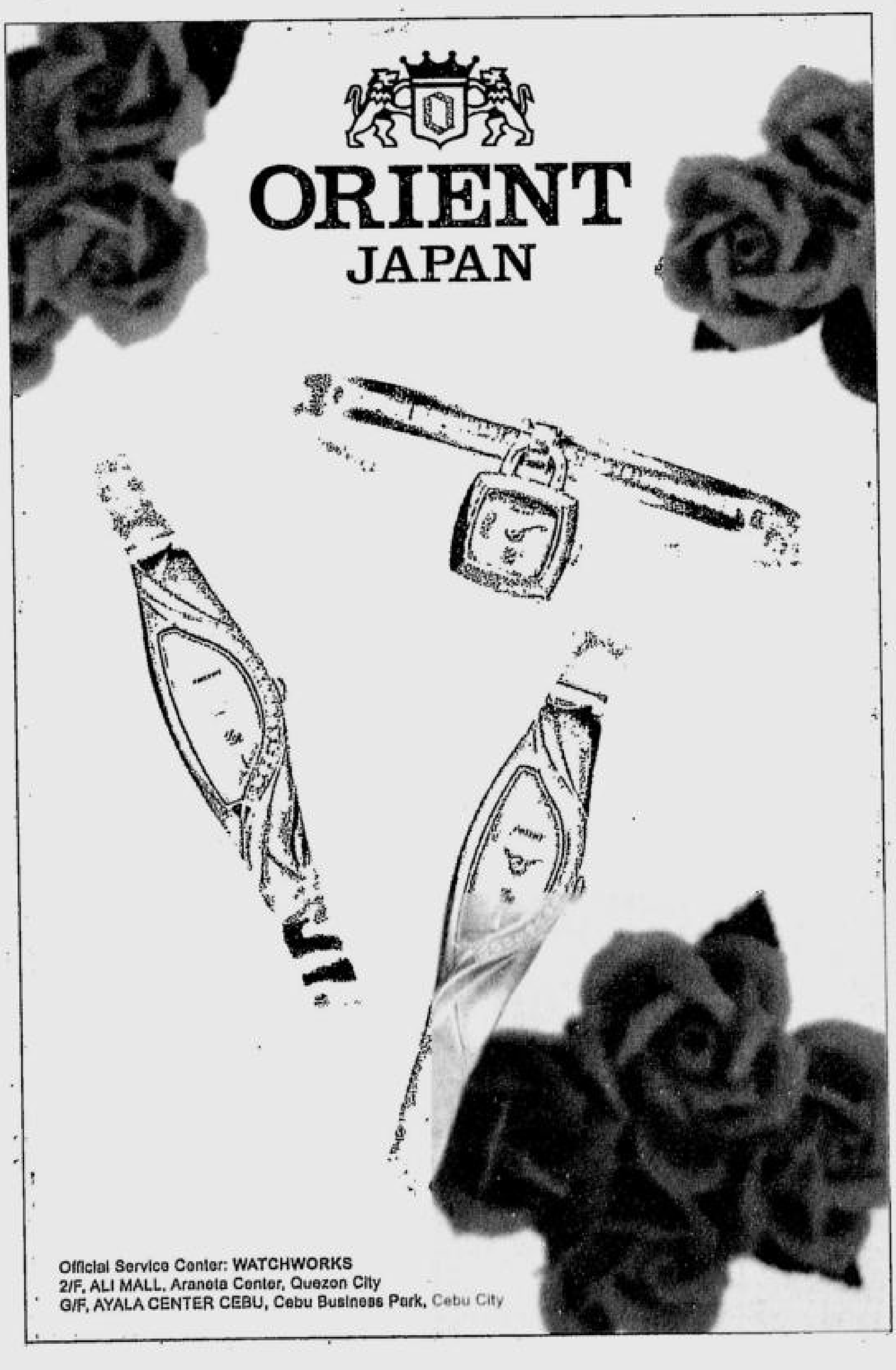
My husband tried the pepperoni and mushroom while I went for the less-heard-of stuff. Pizza Hanna turned out to be as unique and memorable as I had hoped. The topping of sausage is flavored with, as the menu coyly describes, "wine and spices traditionally brought by (Mediterranean) caravans from the East since days of old." I tasted cumin, perhaps ground coriander seeds, and even hints of cinnamon. I was also pleased to find our pizza orders topped with mozzarella cheese—not bad, considering that roughly P60 buys you a six-inch pizza, good for one.

Finding places like Pizza Volante and Paliz'zata are gratifying as they show the resiliency and dynamism of Baguio's local food scene. Despite competition from Manila-based establishments, homegrown businesses can and do thrive by offering up good food with a twist—the twist being the city itself; with its cool weather, its mountain views, and its artistic, bohemian vibe.

A six-course Valentine

M CAFÉ's creative chef Sau del Rosario presents a Valentine offering from today till Monday. "Florasensual" is a six-course menu that starts with aphrodisiacs of fresh Aklyan oysters in orange flower dressing, followed by baked apple and roasted *foie gras* tart. The main courses are romantic lavender smoked salmon and pan seared pacific scallops with oriental mushroom squash tempura; and a choice of Asian seafood boullabaise with caper flower, zucchini floss and jasmine rice or roasted *ilang-ilang*-scented yogurt, marinated lamb loin with braised Asian vegetables, basil flower and crispy sweet potato. Dessert is a surprise.

M Café is located at the Ayala Museum Glass Wing. Signature cocktails and an extensive list of wines are available. For reservations, call 757-3000 or 757-6000.



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Bridal fashion in a cinch

Two specialty shops for those who want to do the traditional *terno* and entourage route on a cheap-chic wallet

By Harriet Ann Dy
Contributor
Photos by Niccolo Cosme

ORGANZA bustier with hand embroidered pearls, beads and silver threads with satin skirt by Lya Armovit.

ALMOST four years after I walked down the aisle, I still couldn't help but wax romantic when I dropped by Ready To Wed, former Rustan's designer Lya Armovit's new bridal salon at Market Market mall (tel 889-5040).

As the store name suggests, RTW is an off-the-rack, one-stop wedding store reminiscent of the ubiquitous bridal emporiums that dot North American cities.

In a city where wedding wear has largely been a monopoly of the made-to-measure industry, RTW is the latest destination for the apparently growing market that Armovit describes as the "no-frills kind of girls." These girls, she says, don't have much patience or time or, more significantly, couture budget, but they still want to tie the knot in style.

"What I want to do is to bridge the gap between couture and your favorite *mananahi*," she says. An Evening Wear major at Fashion Institute of Technology and Parson's Institute of Design in New York, she is more popularly known for her eponymous line at Rustan's.

Another designer, Michelle V. Lim, had this in mind, too, when she and her partners at the Sari Sari Group of Companies expanded their 10-year-old Okasyon line to include designs under the Sari Sari Pangkasal brand last June 2004 at the flagship Megamall store. Twelve designs were introduced in their first collection.

Budget

"It's our answer to the economic crises," Armovit says. "Everyone needs to get married, to get a gown. What we're trying to offer are couture-like pieces in simple classic designs."

SILVER is the most salable color in Michelle Lim's bridal collection for Sari-Sari

At RTW, this means body-friendly silhouettes in bridal satin and Indian silk, plus various mix-and-match permutations. Pair an off-white, lightly-beaded bustier top with an A-line skirt and a long train if you want. Or a crisp organza jacket with a simple sheath dress.

"There are ready patterns for us to work with," says Armovit. Her target market consists mostly of professional couples who seek the sensibility of a local designer while working within a strict wedding budget.

The shop's interiors, designed by Maja Oliveros, echo that of a top-end wedding designer's salon: a Moroccan tent held up by a Moroccan lamp that bathes the place in soft yellow light. An antique *aparador* is resurrected as a display cabinet that holds wedding accessories like ring and coin pillows, veil-and-cord sets, arrhae and fabric brooches for sale for the bride on the go. There is a desk beside the fitting room where the bride-to-be can consult with Armovit.

Price tag for this service: from P7,000-P8,000 for an elegant, lightly hand-beaded gown in bridal satin.

The store's genteel ambiance may be a far cry from similar gowns sold by the wedding retailers that crowd the *pasillos* at Tutuban Mall, but the prices are surprisingly competitive.

In fact, according to Marni Ocampo, top hand behind the Sari Sari chain, "some customers even say we're cheaper than Divisoria." She says the store has sold a lot of gowns in the P8,000 range. Even then you can get a gown in shantung silk with chiffon ruching detail in the bodice for only P6,000.

Although the store's Pangkasal line debuted only last year, Ocampo says they have been selling gowns since customers came to the store demanding a replica of the classic bias-cut Narciso Rodriguez gown that the late Carolyn Bessette wore during her wedding to John Kennedy Jr.

Small premium

Immediately, Sari Sari responded with charmeuse and silk variations pegged at the P1,299 and higher.

"It became very accessible and not too expensive, and right away brides-to-be could see how they looked. They also realized it was something they could wear again," recalls Ocampo.

This convenience is not lost on the typical off-the-rack bride: mostly *balikbayans*, expatriates, OCWs and smart, professional and practical career women, some of whom equate the marriage ceremony with a quick trip to city hall in a simple white dress in satin or chiffon.

"There's still the *terno* mentality, but there's also a younger breed who buy only pieces that they like," observes Ocampo. "They'd rather spend money on the honeymoon, or travelling, than on an expensive gown."

But for those who want to do the traditional entourage route on a cheap-chic wallet, RTW will dress up 10 members of the entourage, including the bride, for P50,000—and maybe even throw in a gift certificate for an overnight stay at five-star hotel.

Meanwhile, Sari Sari Pangkasal has a similar package at P60,000 up. A portion of the Sari Sari Megamall flagship has also been re-designed to look like a wedding shop, complete with fliers from coordinators, photographers, caterers and other wedding suppliers. Wedding accessories are likewise available; the embroidered tulle bridal veil is a bestseller. Consultations can be done in-store.

And if you insist on a made-to-measure touch, for a small premium, you can actually sit down with the in-house designers and make your gown uniquely your own. Almost like couture.

Email the author at chinachix@hotmail.com.

Credits:
Model: Erica Marquez (Monaco)
Maquillage: Rolly Aduca for Shiseido
The Makeup, spring-summer collection
Special thanks: Frank Hoefsmit

Love vs lust

From page 1

Soma believes that love in its mature form is a meeting hearts, minds and spirits. A major plus in her relationship with Mohit is a deep friendship. "It has always been like that even before becoming celibate. I relate to him on an equal basis. I saw that, out there in the world, couples treat one another in a different way. Husbands have a particular way of treating their wives, and the wives have a particular way of treating their husbands. There was no friendship. The relationship was rigid and boxed up. I had never met a man in my life who was honest with his wife and who was not interested in looking at other women or even having sex with them. If women were committed to their husbands, I thought, surely they deserved the same thing back."

Not perfect

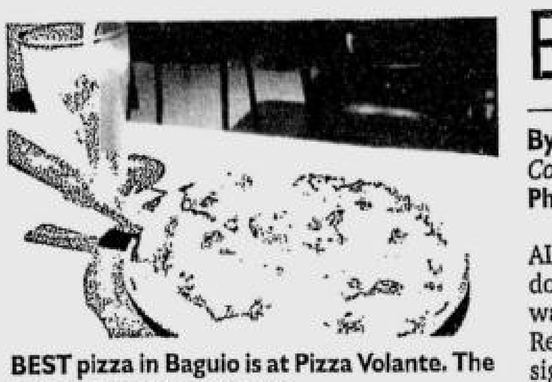
It's not to say that their marriage has been perfect. Their relationship has been tested by the complexities of their personalities. Sona admits that the times they fought, they forgot each other's virtues—which initially attracted them to each other. Her insights on relationships may sound familiar to some:

"The challenge is to let go of the ego and learn to respect the other person for who he is. It's also about building up your own self-respect so that you can respect others. Letting go of expectations takes time. Learning that people aren't perfect and admitting your own mistakes in your personal development are all part of the journey," says Sona. "It's important to care for each other. He may be having a bad day, a rough time at work, or he may be low in spirit. Rather than give him a hard time, give extra mercy and love."

The couple's mutual respect was born out of finding the time to understand what's going on in each other's lives. "It often bleeds when you want him to comply with what you want, or you have to conform with what what he wants. When the expectations are gone, and you live and let live and allow the person to be who he is, then it becomes a relationship of giving and not demanding," says Sona.

Mohit adds, "Love is only a concept, unless there is a physical manifestation. To me, harmonizing our personalities is proof of our love for each other. Love comes in many forms—as tolerance, acceptance, or imposing no restrictions or qualifications. We've known each other for 15 years, been married for 11, and we still want to remain together. It's a decision you reinforce on a day-to-day basis."

GRILLED prawns atop angel hair pasta at Paliz'zata



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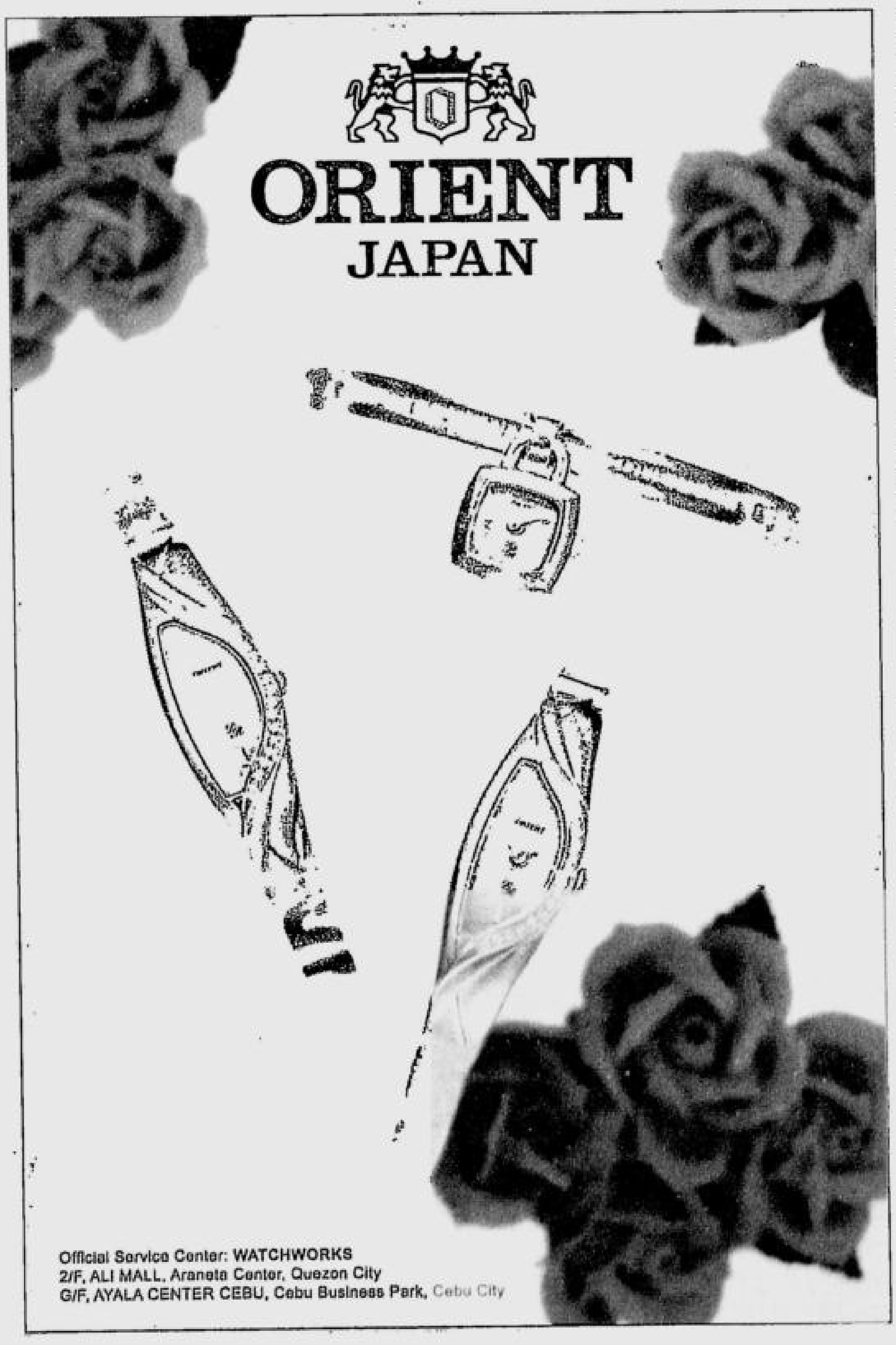

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Bridal fashion in a cinch

By Harriet Ann Dy
Contributor
Photos by Niccolo Cosme

ALMOST four years after I walked down the aisle, I still couldn't help but wax romantic when I dropped by Ready To Wed, former Rustan's designer Lya Armovit's new bridal salon at Market Market mall (tel 889-5040).

As the store name suggests, RTW is an off-the-rack, one-stop wedding store reminiscent of the ubiquitous bridal emporiums that dot North American cities.

In a city where wedding wear has largely been a monopoly of the made-to-measure industry, RTW is the latest destination for the apparently growing market that Armovit describes as the "no-frills kind of girls." These girls, she says, don't have much patience or time or, more significantly, couture budget, but they still want to tie the knot in style.

"What I want to do is to bridge the gap between couture and your favorite *mananahi*," she says. An Evening Wear major at Fashion Institute of Technology and Parson's Institute of Design in New York, she is more popularly known for her eponymous line at Rustan's.

Another designer, Michelle V. Lim, had this in mind, too, when she and her partners at the Sari Sari Group of Companies expanded their 10-year-old Okasyon line to include designs under the Sari Sari Pangkasal brand last June 2004 at the flagship Megamall store. Twelve designs were introduced in their first collection.

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"It's our answer to the economic crises," Armovit says. "Everyone needs to get married, to get a gown. What we're trying to offer are couture-like pieces in simple classic designs."

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At RTW, this means body-friendly silhouettes in bridal satin and Indian silk, plus various mix-and-match permutations. Pair an off-white, lightly-beaded bustier top with an A-line skirt and a long train if you want. Or a crisp organza jacket with a simple sheath dress.

"There are ready patterns for us to work with," says Armovit. Her target market consists mostly of professional couples who seek the sensibility of a local designer while working within a strict wedding budget.

Two specialty shops for those who want to do the traditional *terno* and entourage route on a cheap-chic wallet

The shop's interiors, designed by Maja Oliveros, echo that of a top-end wedding designer's salon: a Moroccan tent held up by a Moroccan lamp that bathes the place in soft yellow light. An antique *aparador* is resurrected as a display cabinet that holds wedding accessories like ring and coin pillows, veil-and-cord sets, arrhae and fabric brooches for sale for the bride on the go. There is a desk beside the fitting room where the bride-to-be can consult with Armovit.

Price tag for this service: from P7,000-P8,000 for an elegant, lightly hand-beaded gown in bridal satin.

The store's genteel ambiance may be a far cry from similar gowns sold by the wedding retailers that crowd the *pasillos* at Tutuban Mall, but the prices are surprisingly competitive.

In fact, according to Marni Ocampo, top hand behind the Sari Sari chain, "some customers even say we're cheaper than Divisoria." She says the store has sold a lot of gowns in the P8,000 range. Even then you can get a gown in shantung silk with chiffon ruching detail in the bodice for only P6,000.

Although the store's Pangkasal line debuted only last year, Ocampo says they have been selling gowns since customers came to the store demanding a replica of the classic bias-cut Narciso Rodriguez gown that the late Carolyn Bessette wore during her wedding to John Kennedy Jr.

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Immediately, Sari Sari responded with charmeuse and silk variations pegged at the P1,299 and higher.

"It became very accessible and not too expensive, and right away brides-to-be could see how they looked. They also realized it was something they could wear again," recalls Ocampo.

This convenience is not lost on the typical off-the-rack bride: mostly *balikbayans*, expatriates, OCWs and smart, professional and practical career women, some of whom equate the marriage ceremony with a quick trip to city hall in a simple white dress in satin or chiffon.

"There's still the *terno* mentality, but there's also a younger breed who buy only pieces that they like," observes Ocampo. "They'd rather spend money on the honeymoon, or travelling, than on an expensive gown."

But for those who want to do the traditional entourage route on a cheap-chic wallet, RTW will dress up 10 members of the entourage, including the bride, for P50,000—and maybe even throw in a gift certificate for an overnight stay at five-star hotel.

Meanwhile, Sari Sari Pangkasal has a similar package at P60,000 up. A portion of the Sari Sari Megamall flagship has also been re-designed to look like a wedding shop, complete with fliers from coordinators, photographers, caterers and other wedding suppliers. Wedding accessories are likewise available; the embroidered tulle bridal veil is a bestseller. Consultations can be done in-store.

And if you insist on a made-to-measure touch, for a small premium, you can actually sit down with the in-house designers and make your gown uniquely your own. Almost like couture.

Email the author at chinachix@hotmail.com.

Credits:
Model: Erica Marquez (Monaco)
Maquillage: Rolly Aduca for Shiseido
The Makeup, spring-summer collection
Special thanks: Frank Hoefsmit

Love vs lust

From page 1

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A Valentine's Day Celebration to Remember at SM Supermalls

SM Supermalls celebrate Valentine's Day 2005 with a series of heart-warming events guaranteed to entertain your family, friends and your special someone.

ROMANTIC DATING GAME AT THE MALL

An exciting event for all single hearts! Be the lucky searchee in town in SM Supermalls' "Romantic Dating Game". Just answer the celebrity's questions and if he or she selects you, you spend an afternoon date together in an SM mall. Many of today's young stars will be the day's celebrity searchers, among them are Geoff Eigenmann, Rainier Castillo, Dennis Trillo, Bianca King, Baron Geisler and many others.

HEART-TO-HEART LOVE CONCERT

Let your hearts be captivated with the ultimate Valentine Concerts from SM Supermalls. Watch and listen to LIVE performaces by Christian Bautista, Josh Santana, Victoria, Passage Band, and many more on stage at SM Supermalls activity areas. All you have to do is be there with your loved ones!

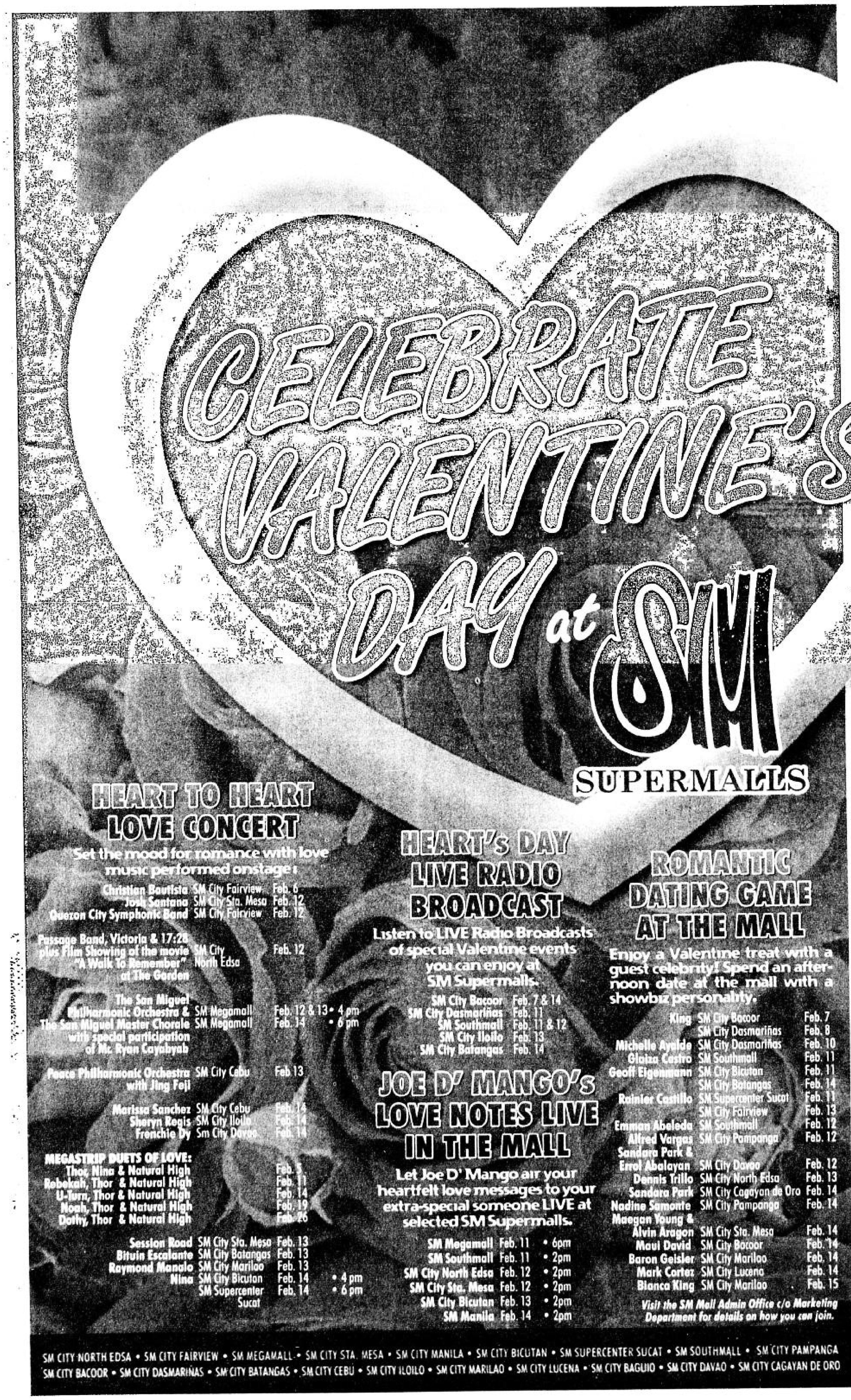
JOE D' MANGO's LOVE NOTES LIVE AT THE MALL

Mr. Love Notes, Joe D' Mango, will air your special love messages LIVE at selected SM malls. What's more, Love Notes listeners are invited to drop their love notes/letters in special love drop boxes at selected SM malls. Tune in to Wave 89.1 FM for more details. Each day, Joe will pick a letter, read it and give his advice, LIVE at SM malls. The lucky sender gets a special prize from Joe D' Mango.

HEART'S DAY LIVE RADIO BROADCAST

Tune in and listen as SM Supermalls and local radio stations give you live broadcasts of special love songs and other Valentine events.

Wave 89.1 JOY


CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY at SM
SUPERMALLS

HEART TO HEART LOVE CONCERT

Set the mood for romance with love music performed onstage!

Christian Bautista	SM City Fairview	Feb. 6	
Josh Santana	SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 12	
Quezon City Symphonic Band	SM City Fairview	Feb. 12	
Passage Band, Victoria & 17:28 plus Film Showing of the movie "A Walk To Remember" at The Garden	SM City North Edsa	Feb. 12	
The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra &	SM Megamall	Feb. 12 & 13	• 4 pm
The San Miguel Master Chorale with special participation of Mr. Ryan Cayabyab	SM Megamall	Feb. 14	• 6 pm
Peace Philharmonic Orchestra with Jing Feji	SM City Cebu	Feb 13	
Marissa Sanchez	SM City Cebu	Feb. 14	
Sheryn Regis	SM City Iloilo	Feb. 14	
Frenchie Dy	Sm City Davao	Feb. 14	
MEGASTRIP DUETS OF LOVE:			
Thor, Nina & Natural High		Feb. 5	
Robekah, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 11	
U-Turn, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 14	
Noah, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 19	
Dothy, Thor & Natural High		Feb. 26	
Session Road	SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 13	
Bituin Escalante	SM City Batangas	Feb. 13	
Raymond Manalo	SM City Marilao	Feb. 13	
Nina	SM City Bicutan	Feb. 14	• 4 pm
	SM Supercenter Sucat	Feb. 14	• 6 pm

HEART's DAY LIVE RADIO BROADCAST

Listen to LIVE Radio Broadcasts of special Valentine events you can enjoy at SM Supermalls.

SM City Bacoor	Feb. 7 & 14
SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 11
SM Southmall	Feb. 11 & 12
SM City Iloilo	Feb. 13
SM City Batangas	Feb. 14

JOE D' MANGO's LOVE NOTES LIVE IN THE MALL

Let Joe D' Mango air your heartfelt love messages to your extra-special someone LIVE at selected SM Supermalls.

SM Megamall	Feb. 11	• 6pm
SM Southmall	Feb. 11	• 2pm
SM City North Edsa	Feb. 12	• 2pm
SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 12	• 2pm
SM City Bicutan	Feb. 13	• 2pm
SM Manila	Feb. 14	• 2pm

ROMANTIC DATING GAME AT THE MALL

Enjoy a Valentine treat with a guest celebrity! Spend an afternoon date at the mall with a showbiz personality.

King	SM City Bacoor	Feb. 7
	SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 8
Michelle Ayalde	SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 10
Glaiza Castro	SM Southmall	Feb. 11
Geoff Eigenmann	SM City Bicutan	Feb. 11
	SM City Batangas	Feb. 14
Rainier Castillo	SM Supercenter Sucat	Feb. 11
	SM City Fairview	Feb. 13
Emman Abeleda	SM Southmall	Feb. 12
Alfred Vargas	SM City Pampanga	Feb. 12
Sandara Park & Errol Abalayan	SM City Davao	Feb. 12
Dennis Trillo	SM City North Edsa	Feb. 13
Sandara Park	SM City Cagayan de Oro	Feb. 14
Nadine Samonte	SM City Pampanga	Feb. 14
Maegan Young & Alvin Aragon	SM City Sta. Mesa	Feb. 14
Maui David	SM City Bacoor	Feb. 14
Baron Geisler	SM City Marilao	Feb. 14
Mark Cortez	SM City Lucena	Feb. 14
Bianca King	SM City Marilao	Feb. 15

Visit the SM Mall Admin Office c/o Marketing Department for details on how you can join.

SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM MEGAMALL • SM CITY STA. MESA • SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY BICUTAN • SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT • SM SOUTHMALL • SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY BACOOR • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS • SM CITY BATANGAS • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY MARILAO • SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

GRILLED prawns atop angel hair pasta at Paliz'zata

BEST pizza in Baguio is at Pizza Volante. The milkshakes are a must-try.

Little Italy in Baguio

By Meluchi Rivera
Contributor

BAGUIO CITY—Who said that one mall now has a lock on the best dining-with-a-view in the City of the Pines? Some quick research led us to at least two uncommon eating places that prove the real heart of the city still is that famed strip of concrete called Session Road.

The first is called Paliz'zata, a glass-walled Italian restaurant and café on the roof deck of the Porta Vaga mall. The setting offers unparalleled views of the city and Session Road, as well as the postcard-perfect Baguio Cathedral just a few steps away. We suggest coming for dinner, when the skyline is especially pretty.

Chances are, you will catch owner Mark Anthony Macapugay earnestly preparing the food, while his wife Jennifer helps attend to customers. The café opened January last year and, sans any marketing effort, has attracted regulars and even out-of-towners who have heard of the steak and pasta dishes. The portions are more than generous, and Manilans will delight at the prices.

We tried the beef and tuna carpaccio, which comes with capers and a seriously large serving of leafy greens (we are in Baguio, after all). While Macapugay admits to having no formal training as a chef, his version of these antipasti can give those of some upscale Manila restaurants a serious run for their money. Ask for the vinaigrette to be served on the side, however, as the accompanying salad is rather too heavily dressed.

Heroic efforts

The main dishes we had—Italian-style beef stew with red wine sauce, and grilled prawns atop angel hair pasta—also passed muster. And again, the accompanying servings of pasta were generous to the point of overwhelming—we must have been served around 200g of pasta each. Neither my husband nor I could clean our plates, despite heroic efforts, and we had to pass on dessert.

The second place we tried, upon the recommendation of some locals, is almost a hole-in-the-wall. It is easy to miss, marked by a small red 'Volante' sign alongside a larger, neon-lit sign saying "Session," symbol of the old Session Theater. It is almost a dive, located in an old building, with just a smattering of chairs on the first floor. Choicer seats, away from the exhaust of passing cars, are at the second and a half floor—yes, you read right. Try to be as nonchalant as the locals as you walk up the back stairs and come to what looks like a forlorn sala from a '50s Pinoy black-and-white movie. Turn left, walk up three more steps, and viola—Pizza Volante's annex.

I assure you that the slight bemusement will leave you once you get hold of their menu. You will be instantly excited over the 15 kinds of pizza, some familiar and some atypical. There are five kinds of pasta, and more eclectic fare like waffles, omelets and banana splits. For drinks there are the usual sodas and beer, plus fruit and milk shakes (the strawberry milkshake is a must), ginseng, organic lemongrass juice, and even wine by the glass. Even more exciting: prices are cheap, obviously designed for the backpack-toting student population.

Safe, novel, unusual

Pizza flavors range from the safe, such as pepperoni, mushroom and pesto; to the novel, like burger, chili con carne and bratwurst; to the really unusual, like Hanna sausage and chicken Marengo.

My husband tried the pepperoni and mushroom while I went for the less-heard-of stuff. Pizza Hanna turned out to be as unique and memorable as I had hoped. The topping of sausage is flavored with, as the menu coyly describes, "wine and spices traditionally brought by (Mediterranean) caravans from the East since days of old." I tasted cumin, perhaps ground coriander seeds, and even hints of cinnamon. I was also pleased to find our pizza orders topped with mozzarella cheese—not bad, considering that roughly P60 buys you a six-inch pizza, good for one.

Finding places like Pizza Volante and Paliz'zata are gratifying as they show the resiliency and dynamism of Baguio's local food scene. Despite competition from Manila-based establishments, homegrown businesses can and do thrive by offering up good food with a twist—the twist being the city itself; with its cool weather, its mountain views, and its artistic, bohemian vibe.

A six-course Valentine

M CAFÉ's creative chef Sau del Rosario presents a Valentine offering from today till Monday. "Florasensual" is a six-course menu that starts with aphrodisiacs of fresh Aklyan oysters in orange flower dressing, followed by baked apple and roasted *foie gras* tart. The main courses are romantic lavender smoked salmon and pan seared pacific scallops with oriental mushroom squash tempura; and a choice of Asian seafood boullabaise with caper flower, zucchini floss and jasmine rice or roasted *ilang-ilang*-scented yogurt, marinated lamb loin with braised Asian vegetables, basil flower and crispy sweet potato. Dessert is a surprise.

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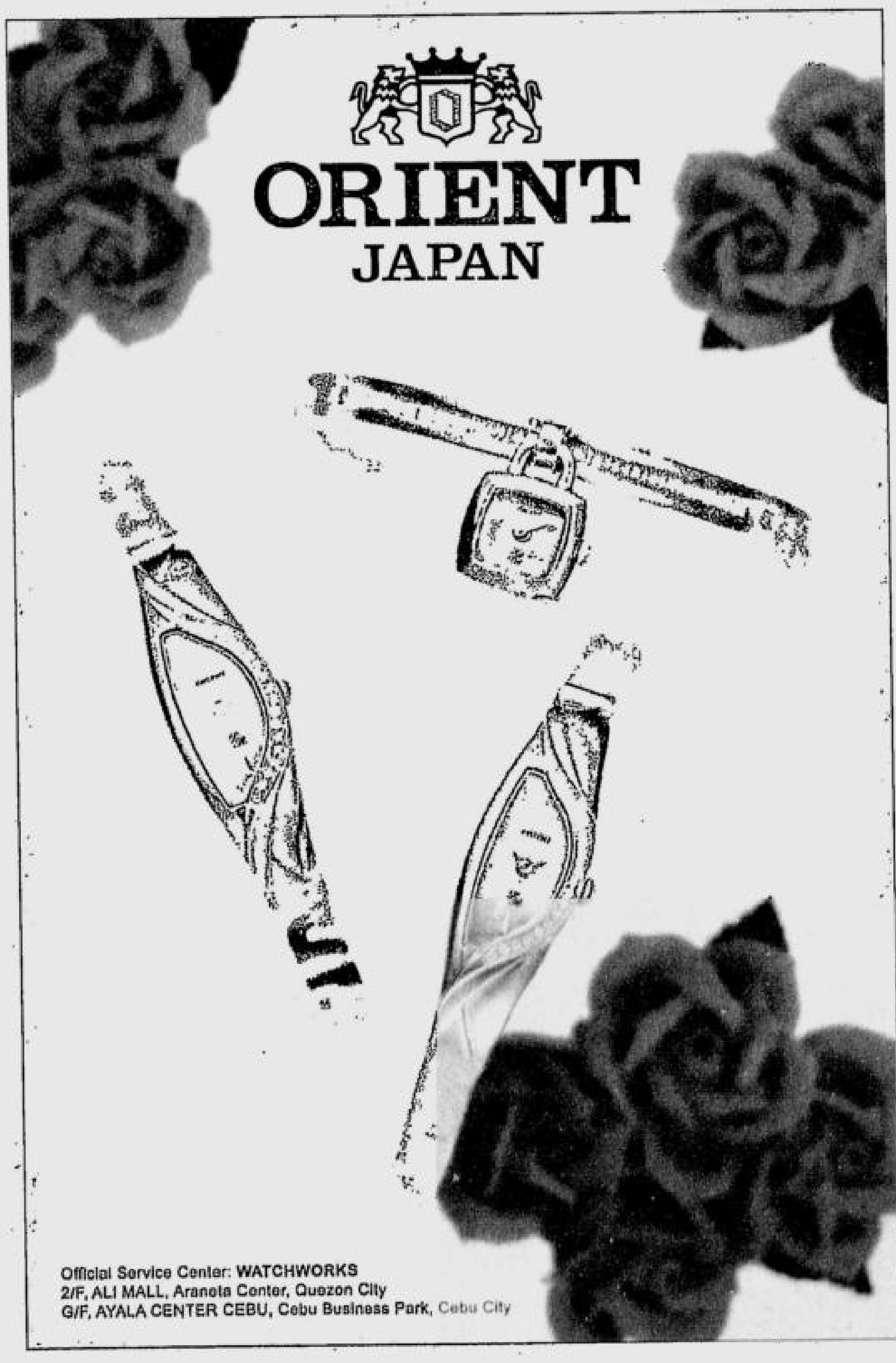

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Editor Marge C. Enriquez
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Condo living made easy

By Avie Gochoco-Perez, *Contributor*
Photos by Niccolo Cosme
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

THE GUYS who built the pioneering, luxurious, residential condo Essensa in posh Fort Bonifacio and successfully sold its units at P30 million each recently spiked ground in the area again with two more firsts: fully-fitted, fully-furnished condo units from as low as P2.9 million; and a scheme that makes buyers "co-developers," so that they save money by not having to pay value-added tax, documentary stamps and transfer taxes.

These two pioneering features came into play in the building and marketing of a residential-commercial condo project named "South of Market" or "SoMa"—two towers, 39 storeys high, which should be up and piercing the Global City horizon in Taguig within the next three years. As the name implies, SoMa will rise south of the Fort's Market! Market!

With SoMa, one can live next door to the residents of top-scale Essensa, Pacific Plaza and Forbes Park, for a morsel of what these folk pay or have paid for their quarters. Century Properties and sister-firm Meridien Development Group of the Antonio and Cuerva families put Essensa on the map. Now they're holding up SoMa to net the middle-income group.

This early, Century Properties claims to have "pre-sold" 150 of the first tower's 230 units. Some units have even gone to the erstwhile buyers of nearest competitor Serendra, a nearby residential condo project of Ayala Land Inc.

These buyers chose to forfeit their P50,000 reservation fee in Serendra rather than pass up on buying a unit in SoMa.

Easier to sell

"We know that is so," says 32-year-old John Victor "Jigger" R. Antonio, Century Properties' managing director/chief operating officer, "because some of their sales people have come to work for us. They say it's easier to sell SoMa."

SoMa is the Antonio-Cuerva group's offering to a market that it considers ripe for the picking. With its fully-fitted, fully-furnished units, SoMa's units are cheaper by 29.03 percent on average than their nearest competitor Serendra's on a per-square-meter basis. This may be its biggest selling point. Goes the selling pitch: When one adds up the savings from not having to pay VAT, miscellaneous expenses and fittings, a "co-developer" ends up shelling out nearly 30 percent less for a unit.

Thus, a SoMa unit is cheaper by P20,900 per sq.m. than one at Serendra. In sum, a buyer can save nearly P800,000 on a 38-sq.m. one-bedroom unit, or up to P2.4 million on a 115-sq.m. three-bedroom unit. Additionally, payment terms are easier than the nearest competitor's: 20 percent down payment over six months, 60 percent over 36 months, and 20 percent when you get the keys to your unit. Serendra requires a 30 percent down payment in one month and the 70 percent balance in 36 months.

"We entered the market two months after Serendra, so we had to think of something," Jigger lets on. Still, "thinking of something" to propel it to new heights on its sales journey is hardly new to Century Properties.

Nearly a decade ago, when it put Essensa on the market six months ahead of nearest competitor Pacific Plaza and a full year ahead of the Asian financial crisis of 1997, little did it know that it was in for very rough times.

"In 1996, the real estate market was booming. The stock market was at an all-time high. [Former President] Ramos' time was very progressive. He always marketed the country. We sold one unit a day at P30 million per unit for the first three months," Jigger recalls. That was no mean feat, Essensa then being the "most expensive condo in the country."

But when the Asian financial crisis struck in July 1997, Essensa buyers suddenly couldn't meet their payments. Some even sought refunds. At the same time, the banks were aching to have money safely back in their vaults. Jigger and his team had to mount a "massive public relations campaign" to reassure Essensa's publics about continuing to be there to nurture the hobbled project through to completion.

Urgent adjustments

"We allowed the buyers more time to pay because we didn't want to forfeit payments they had already made. We talked to the banks. But just as we extended payment terms for the buyers, we said we would need more time to finish construction. We shook hands and finished Essensa. We all worked cohesively," Jigger says.

Today, Essensa appears to be Century Properties' and Meridien's flagship project, their finest symbol of success. After all, the newsmagazine Asiaweek voted it the best residential building in the Philippines a few years ago.

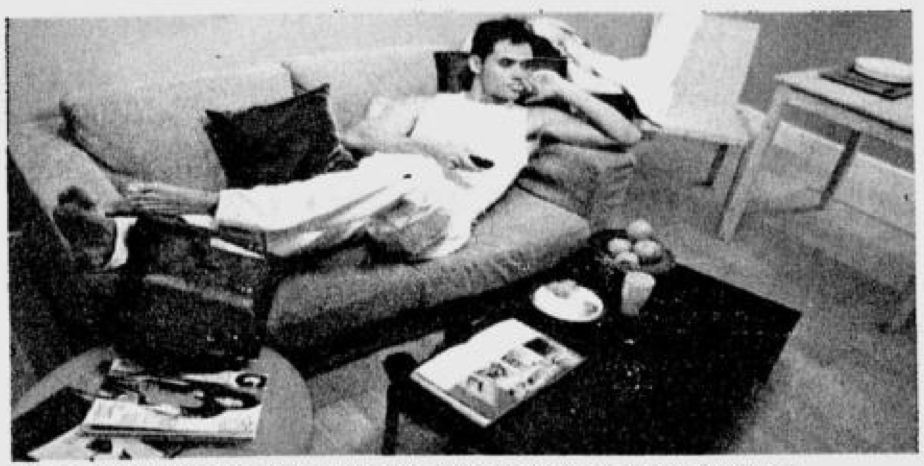
Ask Jigger what it is that makes for success in any real estate undertaking and he would say, "location, timing, the right product."

SoMa's location is ideal. "Fort Bonifacio is the future Makati," Jigger is convinced.

Timing? The political landscape is "more

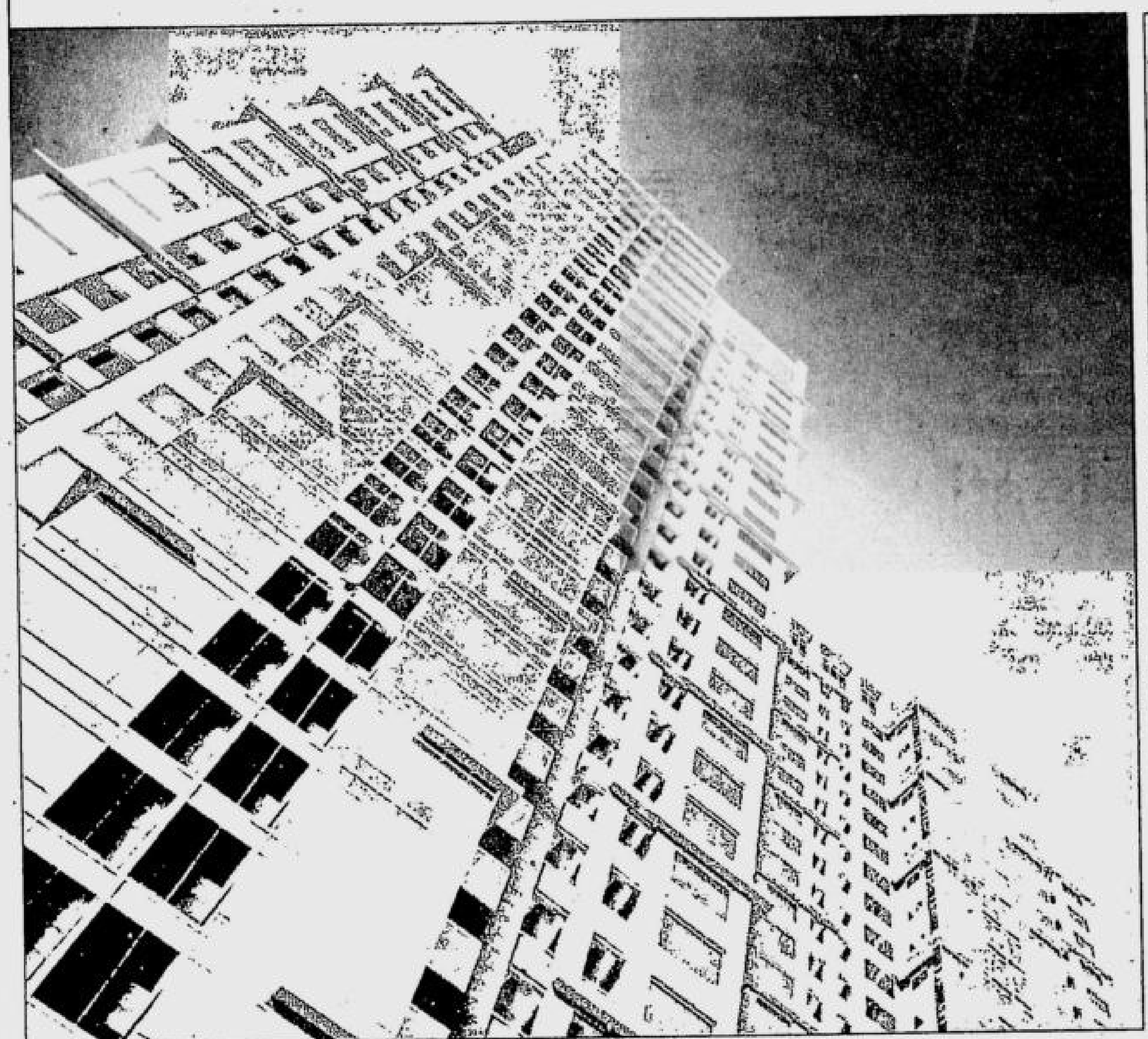
CONDO/2

Care to live next door to Essensa, Pacific Plaza, and Forbes Park, for a morsel of what their residents had to pay?



THE POWER OF ONE. Many of South of Market's clientele are singletons who prefer the convenience of moving into a fully-furnished unit.

SoMa Principle:
You don't have to be very rich to live at the Fort.
Just very smart.



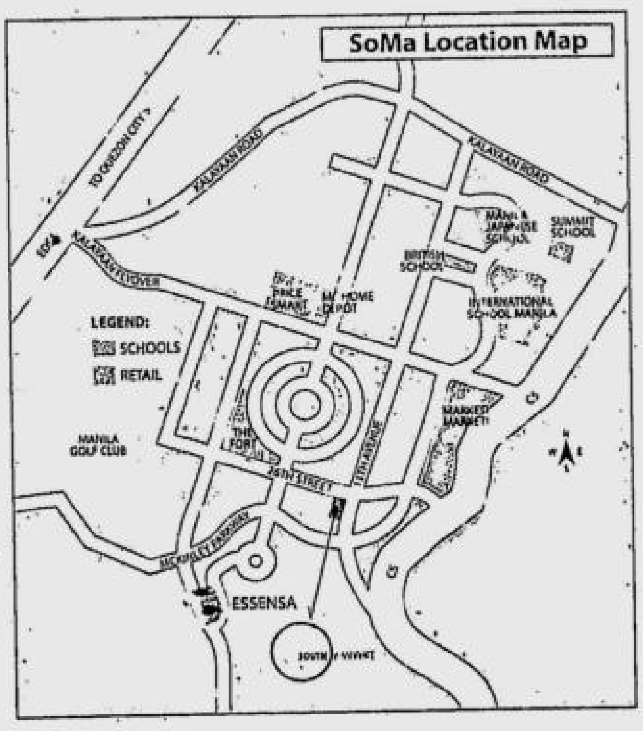
After Essensa, SoMa. A 37-storey twin tower residential development in Fort Bonifacio. The ONLY fully-fitted and completely furnished residential condo in the Philippines. Expectedly remarkable. Surprisingly affordable.

From the developers of Essensa, recognized by Asiaweek as the best residential building in the Philippines, comes another breakthrough development. South of Market, or SoMa for short. It's for smart buyers who wish to get a more luxurious home without investing in too much money. With unit prices starting at only P2.9 Million, SoMa offers exceptional value.

South of Market has been carefully planned with condominium users in mind. All units are corner units, allowing for spectacular views from all bedrooms and living areas. Additionally, with all units coming in fully-fitted and fully-furnished, living starts when the unit is turned over. No messy outfittings. No time wasted buying appliances and fixtures. It's the new way of owning a condo.

Each unit at SoMa comes complete with air-conditioning in each bedroom, kitchen cabinetry, a refrigerator, cooktop, rangehood and microwave, a washing machine, a Sony flatscreen TV, a DVD player, an entertainment sound system, and a dining and living room set. Visit our model units at the 6th Floor of the Pacific Star Building in Makati to experience it all.

Check out SoMa -- It's an exceptional residence at an exceptionally good price.



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Model units located at the 6th floor, Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave corner Makati Ave, Makati City. Open Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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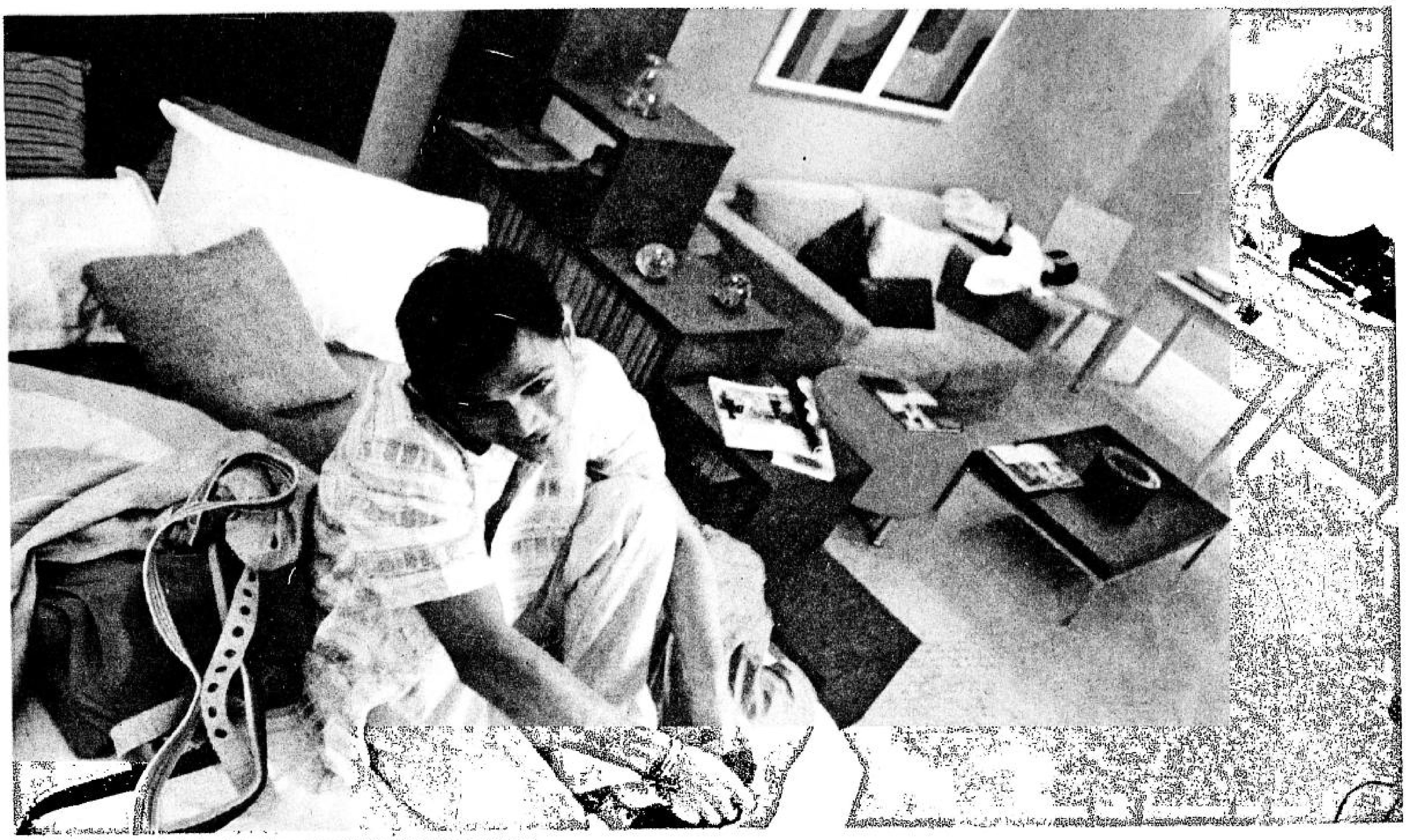
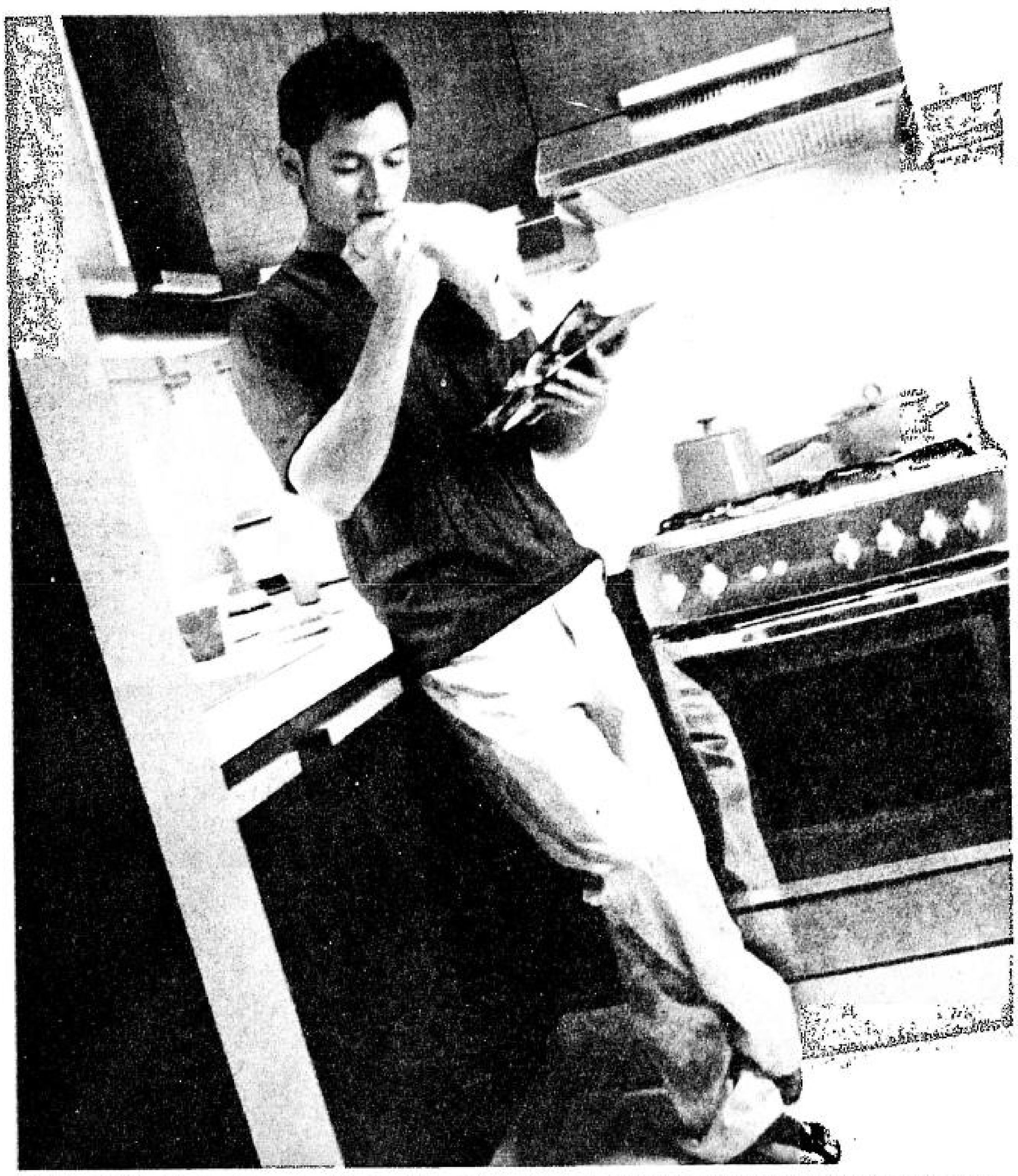


THIS STUDIO caters to the bachelor. Areas are separated by a shelving system.



THE WARMTH of the interiors extends to the kitchen with oak panels, chocolate brown accents and bright '70s panel.

OCHRE and warm colors for the bachelor's pad.

Condo living made easy

From page 1

stable," and so are interest rates.

Population growth is "intense," such that "a lot" of SoMa's buyers will be either "users or eventual users" of the units they buy. Of the 12 million who live in the metropolis today, how many are properly fed, clothed and housed? SoMa aims to zero in on the middle class.

"The real estate market is now booming because of unsupplied demand. When the Asian financial crisis struck in 1997, the developers stopped building. From 1998 to 2002, there was no new development. There is now pent-up demand due to population growth," Jigger says.

Filipino-Americans are also the target market for SoMa.

Half of buyers

Jigger illustrates: "A doctor who has made it after a decade of practice in the States buys a unit for his sister here. Other successful Fil-Am professionals want a second home they can use when they come to visit. They consist 50 percent of our buyers. They are now sustaining the real estate market."

The right product?

"SoMa is suited to the present market. Right now, P3 million is not a lot for a one-bedroom unit."

That SoMa's units come already dressed up could also be a big come-on. That should save the buyer at least six months of doing it himself or hiring an interior designer to get the unit ready for occupancy. Imagine running in and out of stores to buy the ref, washing machine, air-conditioning units, stove with oven, range hood extractor, microwave oven, TV set, DVD, CD, MP3, Karaoke, bed frames, et cetera.

For upgrades, such as a punched-up ceiling over the living-dining room, or painting the walls in a color other than the original white, buyers can call Meridien or another sister construction firm, Nova. The punched-up or "suspended ceiling," for example, can be done for just an extra P15,000, Jigger says.

Lighting will have to be shouldered by the buyer. "That is a matter of personal taste," says Ricardo "Chut" Cuerva Jr., interior designer. Jigger describes Chut's chosen style as "Asian modern," The style appeals to a broader range of SoMa's market, more than the "Parisian style"— in which antique pieces are combined with modern pieces, now the craze in Paris and London —that he originally did on the model units.

Jigger says "90 percent of the market could not understand [the Parisian style] although a lot of artists loved it." After a month, Chut "toned down" the interiors to suit the Filipino taste better and that was how the "Asian modern style" came to be for SoMa.

Each unit comes with a dining table and chairs, sofa, armchair, coffee table. The furniture pieces are generic, nothing out of the beaten path, design-wise, to ruin the units' appeal to a broad range of the market. The kitchen countertop is in natural stone or Corian-type, the cabinets in wood and glass, and the sink and faucet in stainless steel. In the one-bedroom unit, a utility balcony hosts the washing machine and will hide the condenser unit of the split-type air-conditioner.

New standard

A concierge service will be available for SoMa, a concept the Antonios were first exposed to in New York. They implemented the concept in Essensa. Now it has "created a new standard" for other residential condo projects.

Jigger can go on and on selling Meridien's properties. "I love the business," he says today. "I am very passionate about it. I shadowed my dad (who set up Meridien with Chut's dad in 1986) for six years when he still had the energy to teach me. It was good mentorship. He made me his right-hand man so I could observe him. I looked at all the deals that passed through his desk."

But he remembers being exposed to the business for many years even before actually joining the firm. Dad would talk about his projects even at the dinner table, he recalls.

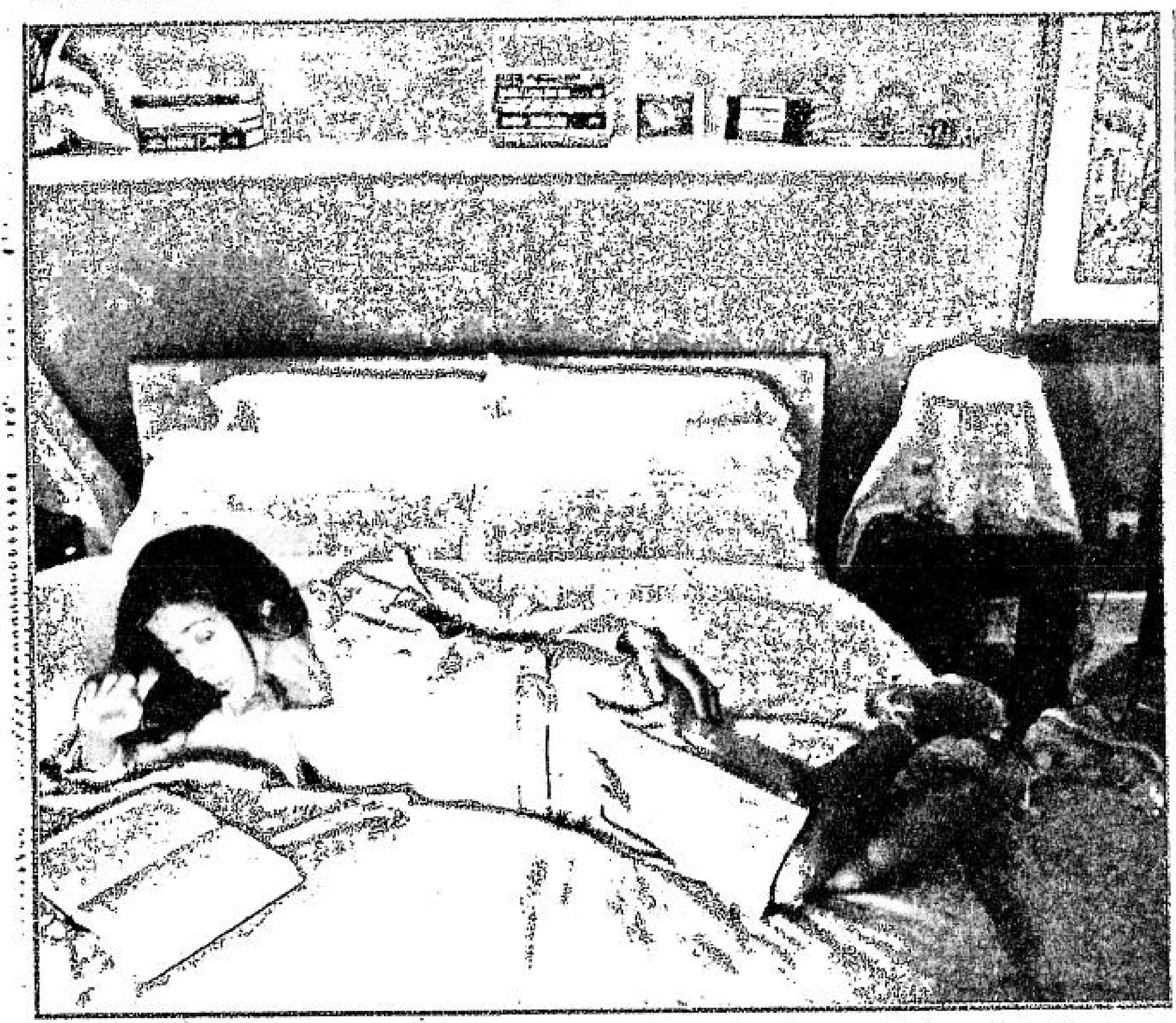
"My passion is sales, just like my dad. You have to be passionate and sold on the product..."

This bachelor no longer brings work home. "As you finish it, you find you have more work to do. I just empower my people more."

The salesman in him puts in a last word, though: "We are the biggest private real estate development company in the country. My Dad says we'll never go public. We're a modest family, we don't need that much. And being private, we have flexibility. In [the face of] a bad market, we just stop."

CREDITS:
Models: Corey Wills, Faith Navarro
Makeup, grooming: Angelo Justin
Menswear: Anthony Nocom for SM
Womenswear: Viseversa at Rustan's, SM Megamall A

THE BIGGER condo is feminine and more contemporary compared to the condo unit. The colors compliment the mix of retro and modern pieces.



THE WALLS are painted mauve to cater to the female market. The headboard comes with the condo, but the tenant provides the bed.

AQUAMARINE walls provide a vivid background for the mix of modern pieces.

THE KITCHEN is brighter with white panels and stainless steel appliances.

Ask the architect

Roger Villarosa, 71, talks about the latest gem in his distinguished career

WHEN ONE asks Roger Villarosa, architect and principal of the firm bearing his name, what he had in mind when he designed South of Market or SoMa, one gets a crash lecture on architecture.

"As always, we're asked to have efficient space planning to create a layout that is attuned to our lifestyle considering certain basic parameters like comfort, convenience, safety. Of course, we should all take aesthetics into consideration. We're also supposed to produce art forms and elements that will stand the test of time. It is a composition of materials following the design principles of balance, contrast, light, shades, shadows… a combination of these."

Now 71, Villarosa was architecture board exams topnotcher in 1954. He has maintained a connection to what is young in his field; he needs to be familiar with today's lifestyles in order to design successfully for the young market.

"When we introduce colors or elements identified with the young market, it can actually be generalized so that it is supposed to pull the more mature as well," he says. "For example, vibrant colors and forms are intended to bring life even to the more mature market." In SoMa, this could be important, indeed, as part of its market are rich parents buying units for their children.

Corner units

Space planning for SoMa involved fully maximizing the provisions of natural light and ventilation in the area and taking advantage of the beautiful sceneries surrounding the project.

"Most are corner units," Villarosa says. "We introduced more breaks into the building to produce corners instead of designing just a straight building." With more corners come more windows to better showcase the outside view.

"Utility balconies"—introduced for the first time in this category of condominium units—are not meant for unit dwellers' enjoyment of the view. "We introduced it as a later innovation to hide the air-conditioner condenser units," says Villarosa. "[Otherwise] there are enough picture windows in the living-dining rooms, and even in some bedrooms, that offer good views."

Wouldn't the association dues make the dweller feel like he's effectively paying rent? "The association can always keep it down to the bare minimum," Villarosa says.

Asks a competitor: Is it true that the buyers of SoMa, as "co-developers," cannot sue if something turns out wrong with the building? How can they sue themselves?

"You can sue the president of the managing firm," Villarosa says. In SoMa's case, it is Meridien Development Group Inc., which has two decades of experience in developing real estate projects and the power behind the realization of 18 buildings so far in the metropolis.

"The development manager handles all aspects for a fixed fee and funds go into a collective depository and disbursing account," says SoMa's sales brochure. "[This is the] "cooperative (coop) approach, a proven concept in the US and Europe."

Buyers' assurance

Villarosa's own take on the concept is this: A buyer is assured that his money goes into the project, that it is not diverted. Buyers have been known to place enough money into a project to start building, only to find out that the money has been diverted to other projects.

SoMa is Villarosa's fourth building project with Meridien. He believes in the company's officers: "Their forte is delivering on their commitments. They do not let up on that. One of the most important aspects in condo development is the integrity of the developer. From my experience, quite a number of projects up to now are up in the air because the developers failed in this aspect."

He feels something is in the air for the real estate business. "We have more projects now than last year. That means more developers are hopeful. We see some indicators of confidence. We have four projects for the Filinvest group in Alabang, all at the same time. It means they're trying to take a position simply because there's no other way to go: they have the properties, the money and the people. So what are they going to do, sleep with those?"

Villarosa sees the big developers, such as Ayala, Megaworld, Filinvest, RFM and Meridien as taking a "cautious step. forward, moving to take a position." They are resource-rich enough to wait and "keep that kite flying," he says.

Building with son

Villarosa took up architecture at the Mapua Institute of Technology. He designed the homes of the likes of Oscar Lopez Jr., Alfredo Ramos, Ernesto Rufino and Vincent Recto.

"Designing houses is a stepping stone to designing buildings. When you design a house for someone, either you end up bitter enemies or very good friends," he says. Apparently, he has ended up very good friends with many of his clients, so that R. Villarosa Architects, or simply RVA, has grown to be a firm of 30 employees.

One of his early projects was the Tektite Towers in Ortigas, a 250,000-sq.m. building. "That's 25 hectares," he points out. The design of the two buildings was so original "it set a trend" for "quite a number of buildings" in the early '90s. Two of his much earlier works were the Silahis International Hotel and the extension of the Philippine Village Hotel in the '70s. Before going on his own, he was No. 2 man in the architectural firm of G. Formoso for 10 years.

Today, he has his son as partner. He has even renamed the firm to reflect his son's name, apparently expecting him to take over the reins eventually. "His specialty is hotels—he designed Edsa Shangri-La and resorts," the proud father says. *Avie Gochoco-Perez*

Architect's musings

WHEN architect Dan Lichauco is not building homes or hospitals (the recent was Medical City), he designs furniture pieces that are both easy and artsy. They also complement his sketches on his thoughts and impressions of travels, mostly architectural renderings.

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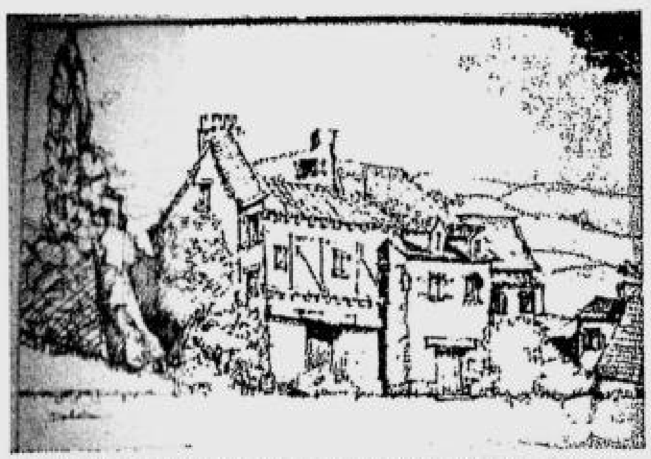
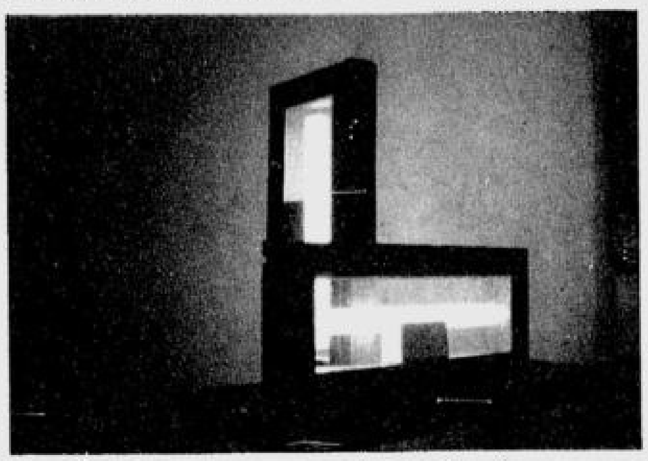


ARCHITECTURAL rendering, it's not. This hillside house caught Lichauco's fancy while spending a vacation in France.



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4 min.
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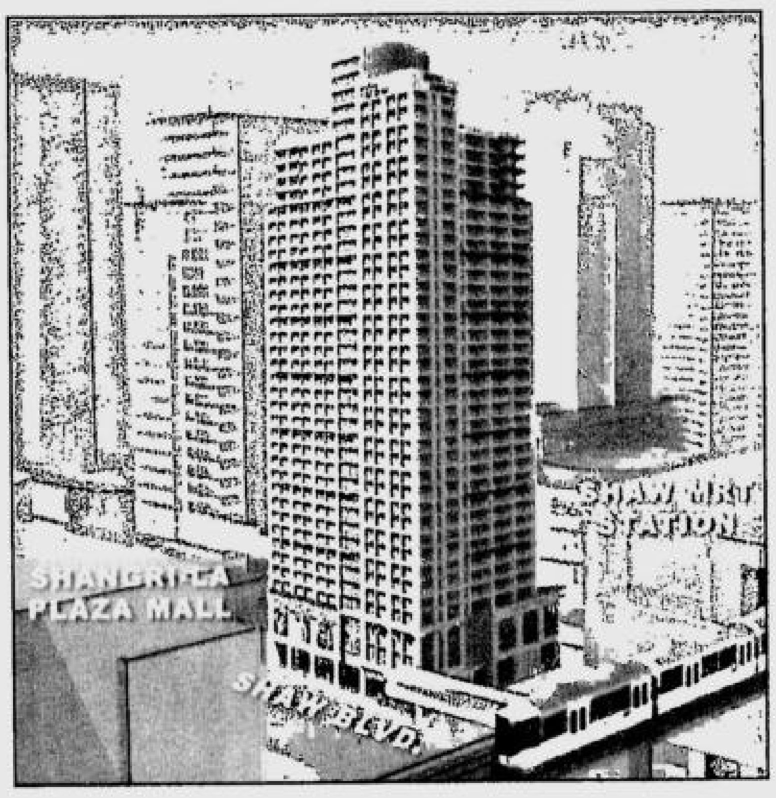

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FURNITURE and furnishings of fine craftsmanship and good design cleverly and imaginatively using indigenous materials, plus a new "wellness" line are in store for discerning foreign and local buyers at the Philippine International Furniture Show (PIFS) 2005.

The yearly event, organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), is set at the World Trade Center Manila and Philippine Trade Training Center from Feb. 28 to March 3.

PIFS 2005 will showcase styles ranging from traditional to classic and neoclassic, reproduction to contemporary modern, executed in wood, rattan, wicker, bamboo and wrought iron combined with non-traditional materials like fossilized stone, wood carcasses, leather, and such locally sourced raw materials as seagrass, *bariw*, coconut byproducts, and tree barks that only Filipino craftsmen can artfully manipulate.

Many of these beautiful Philippine-made furniture have places of pride in luxurious residences and prestigious stores and showrooms in the United States, Europe, Australia and the Middle East.

Depending on the preferences of a particular market, the Philippines can make pieces edgily modern or ornately period, with just a touch here and there of reference to the design's country of origin.

The Philippines is also known worldwide for furniture complements and accent pieces, likewise made of said exotic raw materials, that can make any space look more animated and interesting.

Filipino craftsmen's deftness with diverse styles has a long history and tradition. In pre-colonial times, locals living along flourishing river settlements were already absorbing the cultures of the Chinese, British, Dutch and Malay traders. For 400 years, starting in the 16th century as a colony of Spain and another 50 years as a colony of the United States of America, Filipinos assimilated the Louis Philippe and art deco influences of Europe and the other countries under the Spanish monarchs—brought to the country via the legendary galleon trade—and wholeheartedly embraced the nouveau and modernist influences of the Americans.

From ornately period to edgily modern, the Philippine International Furniture Show 2005 has it all

Featured in PIFS 2005 is a special theme pavilion for what curator PJ Arañador calls "wellness furniture," a new line concept which, he says, responds to the needs and comforts of both the stressed-out, "cocooning" younger generation and the natural health-conscious and sociable elders.

As interpreted by PIFS 2005 exhibitors, wellness furniture sports a back-to-nature attitude. Uncomplicated and unadorned in design, it is functional and low-maintenance but very comfortable, and moves around the house, or from house to house, with the greatest of ease. The curator calls this aspect "nomadic" character.

Arañador, a Filipino who bills himself as a contemporary lifestyle designer and does home furnishings, decorative objects, jewelry, fashion, industrial and interior design, is well known in International design circles. He has collaborated on jewelry design with Danish goldsmith Gerda Monies for Ungaro and Stefano Poletti for Thierry Mugler; designed merchandise programs for top stores like Harrods, Galeries Lafayette, Bloomingdale's, Neiman Marcus, Gap and Calvin Klein; and launched an eponymous brand of furniture in New York City under the distribution of Beatrice Corporation.

He was either part or head of design teams that developed the "Indian Contemporary Home" for the Indian government, the "Casa Colombiana" and the "Andean Style" for South America, and "Kenya Safari Home" for Africa.

In all of his works in these countries, Arañador has consistently aimed for "a strong sense of origin and history, with just a drop of ethnicity." Much like what the Philippine International Furniture Show 2005 is all about.

For more information on PIFS 2005: tel. +632-6812834, fax +632-6312977, email info@cfip.net.

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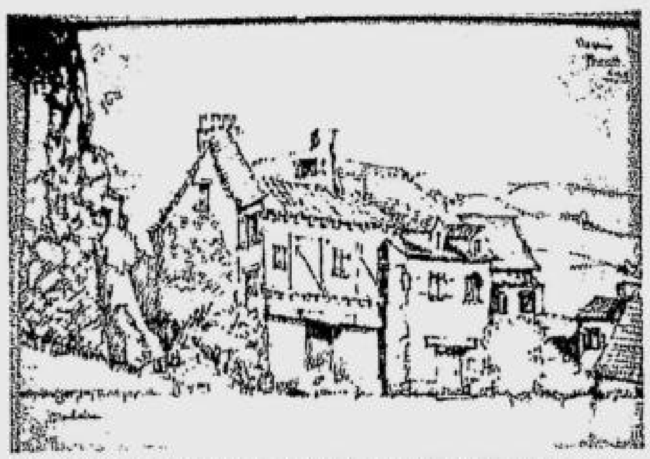

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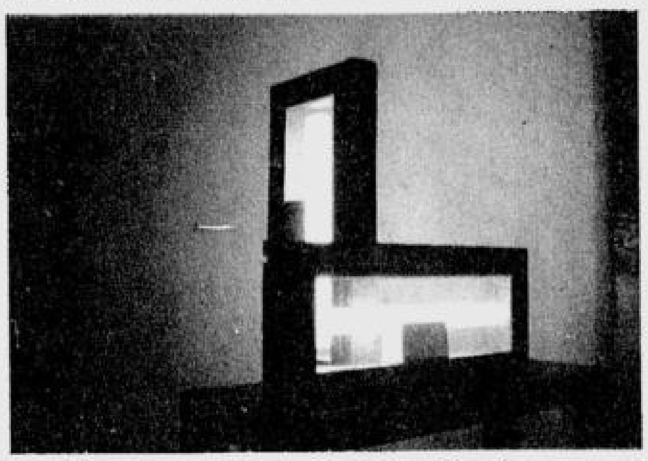

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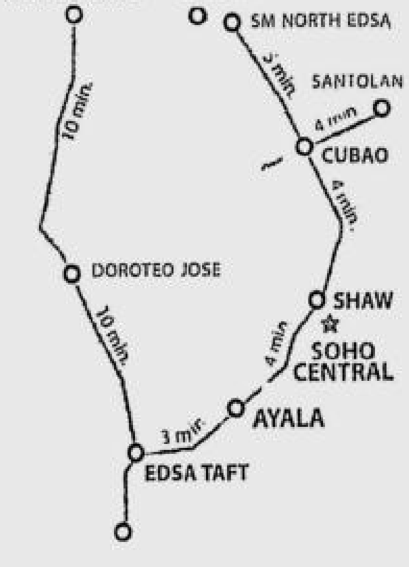
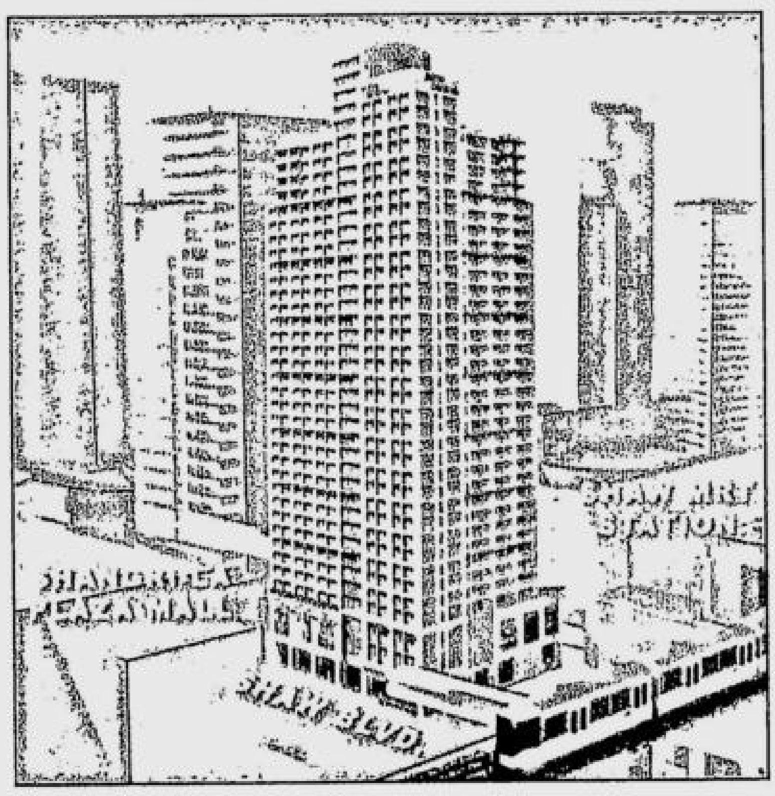
Travel Time via the MRT Network





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Project Managers: nova
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*Due to our continuing efforts to enhance the project, the developers reserve the right to change product features, prices and terms without prior notice and approval.

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